

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 33

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 6 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:



Lieutenant Colonel *Andre C. Lucas*, Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism during the period July 1 to 23, 1970, while serving as the Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, at Fire Support Base Ripcord in the Republic of Vietnam. Although the fire base was constantly subjected to heavy attacks by a numerically superior enemy force throughout this period, Lieutenant Colonel *Lucas*, forsaking his own safety, performed numerous acts of extraordinary valor in directing the defense of the allied position. On one occasion, he flew in a helicopter at treetop level above an entrenched enemy directing the fire of one of his companies for over three hours. Even though his helicopter was heavily damaged by enemy fire, he remained in an exposed position until the company expended its supply of grenades. He then transferred to another helicopter, dropped critically needed grenades to the troops, and resumed his perilous mission of directing fire on the enemy. These courageous actions by Lieutenant Colonel *Lucas* prevented the company from being encircled and destroyed by a larger enemy force. On another occasion, Lieutenant Colonel *Lucas* attempted to rescue a crewman trapped in a burning helicopter. As the flames in the aircraft spread, and enemy fire became intense, Lieutenant Colonel *Lucas* ordered all members of the rescue party to safety. Then, at great personal risk, he continued the rescue effort amid concentrated enemy mortar fire, intense heat, and exploding ammunition until the aircraft was completely engulfed in flames. Lieutenant Colonel *Lucas* was mortally wounded while directing the successful withdrawal of his battalion from the fire base. His actions throughout this extended period inspired his men to heroic efforts, and were instrumental in saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers while inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Lieutenant Colonel *Lucas*' conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action, at the cost of his own life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit and the United States Army. (So much of General Orders Number 9993, Headquarter, 101st Airborne Division (Air-mobile), APO San Francisco 96383, dated 26 August 1970, as pertains to the award of the Silver Star (Posthumous) to Lieutenant Colonel *Andre C. Lucas*, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 7 July 1970, is revoked).



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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. WEYAND

General, United States Army

Vice Chief of Staff

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