

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM/MACV SUPPORT COMMAND
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1633

24 July 1972

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

024-32-4569

SSGT

ARSENAULT, RICHARD R. [REDACTED] STAFF SERGEANT UNITED STATES ARMY,
MACV Advisory Team 43, APO SF 96309

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date of Action: 26 May 1972

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act
of Congress, approved 25 July 1963

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Staff Sergeant Richard R. Arsenault distinguished himself on 26 May 1972 while serving as the Operations/Intelligence advisor on a combat operation with the 12th Regional Force Group in Duc Hue District, Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam. As the 12th Group moved to link up with a friendly unit, an entrenched company size enemy force prepared to initiate an ambush. At the last moment Sergeant Arsenault sensed the ambush and saw a B-40 rocket being fired. He shouted a warning, knocked another American advisor aside and blocked the B-40 round with his body, deliberately sacrificing his life to save the lives of those around him. His heroic and selfless action unquestionably saved the life of the other American advisor and their interpreter and also preserved the 12th Group command element. By saving the command structure from destruction, he made a swift reaction to the ambush possible and prevented it from becoming a disaster. Staff Sergeant Arsenault's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.