DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT) AND FORT CAMPBELL
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY 42223

9 JUNE 1978

MEMORIALIZATION

The Noncommissioned Officers' Academy of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is hereby designated as the John W. Kreckel Noncommissioned Officers' Academy in honor of Staff Sergeant John W. Kreckel, United States Army. Staff Sergeant Kreckel met his death while serving with A Company, 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry, 3d Brigade 101st Airborne Division. Staff Sergeant Kreckel was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumous) for his action during the Vietnam Conflict.

John W. Kreckel was born on 30 May 1948 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He enlisted in the Army of the United States on 14 May 1969. Staff Sergeant Kreckel attended basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Staff Sergeant Kreckel was assigned to A Company, 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry, 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and commenced his Vietnam tour on 28 April 1970. On 22 July 1970, Staff Sergeant Kreckel distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader during an intense enemy attack at Fire Support Base Ripcord. Shortly after the initial enemy attack, the allies were forced to withdraw from their hilltop location to organize a counter-offensive. As they prepared to attack, the allied element began receiving intense fire from an enemy machine gun emplacement. Without hesitation, Staff Sergeant Kreckel ran into the fire-swept area and began administering first aid to wounded allied soldiers. He then organized an assault force and led them up the hill toward the enemy position. As the assault force neared the enemy emplacement, intense fire forced them to take cover. Staff Sergeant Kreckel observed a companion standing directly in the line of enemy fire. Leaving his covered position, the sergeant ran to the soldier and pushed him to safety, but was simultaneously killed by the enemy fusillade.

JOHN N. BRANDENBURG
Major General, USA
Commanding