

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

SGT THOMAS M COCHRANE

In Vietnam he was assigned as a Forward Observer to the 2nd Command, 8th battalion of the 1st Cavalry Air Mobile Group. SGT Cochrane's duties in Vietnam included directing troop support as well as mortar, 105 howitzer fire and, when needed, Cobra Gunship support during combat actions against the enemy. When wounded he was assigned to a mortar group in defense of the Landing Zone in Tay Nimh.

During a late night in September 1969 the Landing Zone at Tay Nimh came under attack by the Viet Cong. They breached the defensive perimeter and started over running the Landing Zone. After SGT Cochrane's mortar was damaged, he picked up a 60 cal. machine gun and began directing continuous fire into the enemy attacking through the breach. His intense fire directed at the attackers helped stop their advance and forced the charging enemy to retreat from the battle, saving numerous American lives.

SGT Cochrane was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal, and the Army Commendation with "V" for "heroism and valor while in combat and under fire from the enemy."

