

Text of Citation for award of Military Cross
to Lieutenant Peter J. Cosgrove

Lieutenant Peter Cosgrove was commissioned on 11th December, 1968 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry. He arrived in Vietnam on 3rd August, 1969 and was posted to 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 20th August, 1969.

On 10th October, 1969, Lieutenant Cosgrove was commanding 5 Platoon, B Company. The platoon located an occupied bunker system in an area where, because of the proximity of allied troops, indirect fire support was difficult to obtain. In spite of this, he led his platoon in an assault on the bunkers without indirect fire support, capturing the system and killing and wounding at least four enemy without sustaining any casualties.

On 16th October, 1969, 5 Platoon located another bunker system occupied by about a platoon of enemy. Lieutenant Cosgrove silently deployed his own platoon for an attack. His assault completely surprised the enemy causing them to flee, abandoning large quantities of food, stores and documents.

The following day in the same bunker system a party of enemy approached his right forward section and was engaged by the sentry. Knowing that the remainder of the section was elsewhere on other tasks, Lieutenant Cosgrove ran to the contact area and personally conducted the fight against the enemy. As a result of his actions, two enemy were killed and three weapons and four packs containing rice were captured.

On every occasion, Lieutenant Cosgrove has shown determination, aggressiveness and outstanding courage. His actions have been an inspiration to his platoon and company, and accord with the highest traditions of the Australian Army.