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SGT. ROBERT KOECHER: THREE MEDALS

-- Sgt. Robert P. Koecher, a pararescueman with the 40th ARRSq, was awarded the Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross and the first oak leaf cluster to the DFC.

He received the DFC for a Nov. 9, 1968, mission in which he aided the successful recovery of an injured fighter pilot by manning an automatic rifle at the exposed helicopter door and supplying suppressive fire at enemy gun po-

sitions.

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Three months later he earned the first oak leaf cluster to the DFC for again providing suppressive fire from an exposed gun position to aid the rescue of a downed airman in hostile territory.

He received the Air Medal for participating as an combat aircrew member in Southeast Asia from Aug. 24, 1968, to Nov. 25, 1968. Colonel Ratcliffe presented the medals.