

1-6-73

201/2087

Wax Post JAN 6 1973

# Pentagon's Friedheim Gets Medal

Associated Press

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird yesterday awarded Pentagon spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim the Defense Department's medal for distinguished service.

The award cited him for providing "with faultless professional clear, concise, accurate and timely information concerning the worldwide activities of the Department of Defense."

Friedheim, whose job as principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs is to brief the press every day, has been accused by critics in recent weeks of obscuring the news of the recent heavy bombing of North Vietnam.