

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383

10 July 1969

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 8551

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

WICKS, EDWARD C SERGEANT Company E 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry
APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Effective month: NA

Date action: 13 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Wicks distinguished himself by valorous actions while serving as a fire direction leader in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat support operations in the A Shau Valley, southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base Airborne was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army soldiers. From his position in the Fire Direction Control Center, Sergeant Wicks observed the progress of the attack. He studied the enemy pattern of assault and maintained constant radio contact with helicopter gunships and land-line communication with mortar crews. At times, he had to utilize his M-16 rifle to defend his position as the insurgents threw satchel charges and hand grenades at his bunker. He adjusted the fire of circling gunships on enemy positions just outside the fire base perimeter, foiling several attacks. His accurate calculations to mortar crews brought illumination flares directly over enemy squads rushing the fire base, leaving the enemy force vulnerable to the friendly forces. Sergeant Wicks' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of Executive Order 11046.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. H. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

for N. Marsh MAJ AGC
DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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