

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 5821

27 September 1966

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. The following AWARD is announced:

SABALAUSKI, WALTER J RA FIRST SERGEANT E-8 United States Army  
Co C, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date action: 9 June 1966 to 11 June 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. From 9 through 11 June 1966, First Sergeant Sabalauski was participating in a blocking operation near Dak To. When the Viet Cong occupied jungle suddenly erupted with intense hostile fire from three directions, First Sergeant Sabalauski, realizing that the company commander could not possibly control all the elements in the thick bamboo growth and 60 foot canopies, rallied and directed the beleaguered troops in an attempt to gain fire superiority. With complete disregard for his safety, First Sergeant Sabalauski dashed from position to position and repeatedly exposed himself to muster his unit and quell the hostile fire. As the Viet Cong assaulted the perimeter, First Sergeant Sabalauski quickly organized an assault line and delivered suppressive fire onto the fanatical Viet Cong. After dashing to the rear of the perimeter and observing that the insurgents were surrounding his company, he exposed himself and screamed orders to form a tight defensive perimeter. Although artillery was called in as close as 25 meters from the friendly force and air strikes devastated the jungle around the perimeter, the determined Viet Cong continued to advance. When the company commander called in air strikes on his own position as a last resort, First Sergeant Sabalauski remained on his feet to control the beleaguered paratroopers. For 30 hours, he continued to dash from one side of the perimeter to the other to direct and encourage his men. Although he was wounded himself, First Sergeant Sabalauski aided his wounded comrades, comforted the dying, and continued to direct his men. When reinforcements arrived and a hasty perimeter was again set up, he fearlessly moved forward of the perimeter and retrieved a dead comrade. After a 1,000 meter move to an evacuation point, First Sergeant Sabalauski personally supervised the extraction of the wounded and dead. Through his courage and outstanding leadership throughout the long and perilous battle, he contributed immeas-

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urably to the defeat of the detained Viet Cong. First Sergeant Sabalauski's extraordinary heroism 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, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963, and Department of the Army message 782774, dated 19 September 1966.

Special instructions: This award supersedes the award of the Silver Star to First Sergeant E-8 Walter J. Sabalauski, RA36034325, for gallantry in action during the period 9 to 11 June 1966, as announced in General Orders Number 5686, Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, dated 14 September 1966.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



S. A. MacKENZIE  
Colonel, AGC  
Adjutant General

RICHARD J. SETTZ  
Brigadier General, US Army  
Chief of Staff

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