

DECLASSIFIED

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By [Signature] NARA Date 5/19/07HEADQUARTERS
TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 707

20 September 1967

AWARD OF THE SOLDIERS MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BARNHILL, JERRY R. FIRST LIEUTENANT, INFANTRY, United States Army, Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry APO 96347

Awarded: Soldiers Medal

Date action: 13 June 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy, on 13 June 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Barnhill was moving his platoon through an open area on a search and destroy mission when the lead squad approached a large river and began crossing it. The squad leader of the lead element proceeded into the swift, turbulent river. After reaching the middle of the river and in waist deep water, the squad leader stepped into a large drop-off and sank from sight. Lieutenant Barnhill, upon seeing the man disappear from sight immediately dropped his equipment, and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, dove into the turbulent stream in an attempt to save the drowning soldier. Upon reaching the spot where the soldier went under, Lieutenant Barnhill swam to the bottom in search of the man. Unable to locate the victim, Lieutenant Barnhill surfaced, took in a fresh breath of air and continued the search. As he was about to surface for the second time, Lieutenant Barnhill spotted the limp form of the victim, pulled the man to the surface and swam to shore. Lieutenant Barnhill immediately began administering artificial respiration and after working feverishly to near exhaustion finally succeeded in reviving the victim. Lieutenant Barnhill's heroic action and personal bravery are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926.