

HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 977

22 December 1967

AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BURKHALTER, EDGAR C JR SERGEANT FIRST CLASS E7 United States
Army Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade,
101st Airborne Division, APO San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Soldier's Medal

Date action: 21 May 1967 — 5113

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force. Sergeant First Class Burkhalter distinguished himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force on 21 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam, while serving as a member of Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. During a resupply mission one of the resupply helicopters crashed while attempting to take off and several men were pinned under the wreckage. Sergeant Burkhalter, realizing the great danger of the aircraft catching fire with ammunition and explosives aboard, rushed to the aid of the stricken men. As Sergeant Burkhalter neared the wreckage, it started to smoke and then caught fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety and at the risk of his life, he moved to the tail assembly and by sheer strength lifted it and held it until the men were pulled free from the wreckage and to safety. Only then did he set the aircraft down and move away from the intense heat. Had it not been for Sergeant Burkhalter's courage, two men would have burned to death. Sergeant Burkhalter's heroic actions 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 USARV
Message 16695, 1 July 1966 and paragraph 30, AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:



GERALD L. OVERSTREET
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

GEORGE S. BLANCHARD
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff