HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARVAY VIETNAM APO San Francisco 96307

CENÉRAL ORDERS NUMBER 5767 21 September 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1, TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SHARP, MARKELL K. SERGEANT E5 United States Army Co A, 2d En (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 9634?

awarded: Silver Star Date action: 3 June 1966 Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Sergeant Sharp distinguished himself on 3 June 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While providing security for an artillery battery, Sergeant Sharp's unit was attacked by a Viet Cong force using mortar weapons. When directed to attack the insurgent positions, Sergeant Sharp led his squad through intense Viet Cong fire up a steep ridge. As the troopers advanced forward, the platoon sergeant was wounded by a hand grenede. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Sergeant Sharp immediately assumed command of the platoon. During the ensuing battle, he killed two Viet Cong and threw a hand grenade into an insurgent emplacement, destroying the bunker and killing two more Viet Cong. As a result of his aggressive actions, the Viet Cong were taken by surprise and the two friendly equads successfully withdrew. After administering first aid to his wounded platoon sergeant, Sergeant Sharp led his squad back to the platoon sector and resumed his assigned duties. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Sharp's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects 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 9 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL STATES

S. A. Mackenzie Colonel, ACC Adjutant General RICHARD J. SEITZ Brigadier General, US Army Chief of Staff