

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96387

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5455

24 August 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

MC NEALY, JACKSON SERGEANT E5 United States Army
Co A, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO
96387

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 20 April 1966 to 21 April 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reasons: For gallantry in action: Sergeant McNealy distinguished himself from 20 April 1966 to 21 April 1966 while serving as a patrol leader during a reconnaissance mission near Phan Thiet, Republic of Vietnam. As his patrol was maneuvering through the jungle, the point man detected a Viet Cong force moving towards them. Sergeant McNealy immediately established an ambush. As the Viet Cong approached within a few meters of the patrol, the ambush commenced and five insurgents were killed instantly and the rest withdrew to a treeline. Exposing himself to the hostile fire, Sergeant McNealy skillfully directed suppressive fire into the treeline until a large Viet Cong element reinforced the beleaguered insurgents. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Sergeant McNealy, with complete disregard for his safety, dashed through intense Viet Cong fire across an open area in search of a better position. After finding a vantage point, he sprinted back to his patrol and led them through the intense hostile fire to the new position where they set up a defensive perimeter and routed the Viet Cong force. On the following day when two men were wounded by Viet Cong fire, Sergeant McNealy exposed himself and administered first aid to his stricken comrades. Although he was wounded himself, he refused medical evacuation until his comrades were treated. He then walked unassisted 700 meters to the evacuation site. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant McNealy's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a 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.