

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5704

15 September 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

JOHNSON, JERRY L. SERGEANT E5 United States Army
Co A, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 7 June 1966 to 9 June 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in actions: Sergeant Johnson distinguished himself during the period 7 June 1966 to 9 June 1966 while serving as platoon sergeant of a platoon on a combat operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Johnson's unit was to provide security for an artillery battery which was receiving intense hostile fire. Upon contact with the insurgents, Sergeant Johnson immediately deployed his men to form a defensive perimeter. During the ensuing fire fight, Sergeant Johnson personally killed three Viet Cong with hand grenades. When the right side of the perimeter was in danger of being overrun, Sergeant Johnson, with complete disregard for his safety, braved hostile machine gun fire as he moved to within five feet of a Viet Cong emplacement before destroying the bunker with hand grenades. He then skillfully directed artillery fire on the remaining insurgents. Shortly after this, he exposed himself to hostile fire while leading a squad onto a hill occupied by the Viet Cong. In the assault, he killed two more Viet Cong. Through his heroic efforts, he inspired his men to press their attack and take the hill. On 9 June 1966, Sergeant Johnson again risked his life as he led his platoon forward to help another embattled company. While moving up a hill toward the besieged company, he halted his platoon and crawled to within three meters of a hostile machine gun position. When the insurgent fired at Sergeant Johnson, he promptly returned the fire, killing the Viet Cong. Sergeant Johnson'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.