



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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 5671

14 September 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

LAGUANA, JOSE S. STAFF SERGEANT E6 United States Army  
Co A, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (Second Oak Leaf Cluster)

Date action: 20 April 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Laguana distinguished himself on 20 April 1966 while serving as squad leader during a combat operation deep in Viet Cong infested territory near Phat Thiet, Republic of Vietnam. As Staff Sergeant Laguana's unit was advancing to secure a landing zone for a company size assault, four Viet Cong were seen moving toward their position. Staff Sergeant Laguana immediately established a hasty ambush, killed one Viet Cong, wounded another and caused the remainder to flee into the jungle. After reaching their objective, he established a defensive perimeter. Later, six insurgents were observed stealthily moving toward their location. Staff Sergeant Laguana quickly organized his squad and again dauntlessly led a charge toward the Viet Cong. He personally killed two Viet Cong during this skirmish. When three of his men attempted to retrieve an insurgent weapon, they received intense hostile fire from a large Viet Cong force and were pinned down. With complete disregard for his safety, Staff Sergeant Laguana dauntlessly led his men in a flanking assault, killed one Viet Cong, wounded another and forced the insurgents to withdraw. His heroic actions throughout the day inspired his men to close with and defeat a numerically superior Viet Cong force, and to successfully secure the landing zone. Staff Sergeant Laguana's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong 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.