

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO US Forces 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 2961

18 May 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 US Forces 96317

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 9 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Laguana distinguished himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as a platoon leader in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, elements of the second platoon were engaged in a vicious fire fight with an entrenched Viet Cong force armed with automatic weapons and machine guns. As the hostile fire grew in intensity, the second platoon and the command element were pinned down. The first platoon was called to maneuver to the right along a creek bank and destroy a hostile position. Viet Cong machine gun fire pinned down the first platoon also. At this time, Staff Sergeant Laguana located the hostile machine gun and, with complete disregard for his safety, moved courageously around the Viet Cong machine gun position. After approaching to within 20 meters of the hostile position, Staff Sergeant Laguana braved almost certain death by charging through intense machine gun fire as he assaulted the hostile emplacement. Staff Sergeant Laguana's courage resulted in the death of two Viet Cong, the capture of a machine gun, an automatic rifle, and a rocket launcher. Because of his heroic actions the pinned down elements were able to advance, rout the insurgents, and continue their mission. Staff Sergeant Laguana's unimpeachable valor 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.