

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5308

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AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

TAYLOR, THOMAS H. CAPTAIN INFANTRY United States Army
Co B, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Ade, 101st Abn Div; APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 6 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Captain Taylor distinguished himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commander of an airborne rifle company during a search and destroy mission at the village of Camh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. When elements of his company made contact with a large Viet Cong force, Captain Taylor immediately dispatched reinforcing elements and skillfully directed them into positions encircling the insurgent force. After assessing the battle from a helicopter over the insurgent positions, he rejoined his company. As he made several attempts to move through the open rice paddies to join his most heavily engaged platoon, he was met by increasingly heavy fire. Although he was unable to move, he continued to direct his platoon leaders and the deployment of another element to reinforce his encirclement of the village. As Captain Taylor moved forward through intense fire, he personally carried one of his wounded troopers to the casualty collection point. When one of his comrades was fatally hit and fell into a swift running river, Captain Taylor recovered the body of his dead comrade. After rejoining his element, he led an assault on an insurgent position and captured a machine gun. He then directed his scattered elements in the sporadic fighting throughout the night. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the decisive victory over the Viet Cong force. Captain Taylor'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.