

HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 77

24 January 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SMITH, FOUNT Y PRIVATE FIRST CLASS B3 United States Army
Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, APO San Francisco 96367.

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 6 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Gallantry in action: Private First Class Smith, with his unit, was belittled to aid in the attack on a heavily fortified village. After ten minutes on the ground Private Smith's unit sustained several casualties and the situation became critical. Private Smith, without orders, began a one hundred meter crawl directly toward the enemy, although he was receiving heavy fire and was in grave danger. Upon reaching a trench, Private Smith began throwing hand grenades into the enemy positions. The Viet Cong spotted him and began throwing grenades back. Undaunted, and with complete disregard for his own life, Private Smith began picking up Viet Cong grenades and throwing them back. Soon Private Smith was out of ammunition and grenades and had no call for more. His comrades, some one hundred meters away, were unable to help him for almost ten minutes. Private Smith then received several grenades that were thrown to him by his comrades in the rear. After again expending all his grenades, Private Smith called for more, but was unheard since all friendly forces were heavily engaged. He then rejoined his comrades and urged them to return to his previous location. Private Smith accounted for at least twelve enemy killed and paved the way for the assault which, together with actions of other friendly forces, routed a well armed enemy force from its prepared defenses. Private Smith's actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the American fighting man and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of USAFV
Message 16695, 1 July 1966 and paragraph 27, AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

William H. James
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Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

LINTON S. DOWNS
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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