

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 1871

26 March 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR  
(POSTHUMOUS)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

OLSON, DUANE V. SPECIALIST FOUR E4 United States Army  
Co B, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO US Forces 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 6 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Specialist Four Olson distinguished himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1000 hours, Specialist Four Olson's unit was dispatched to relieve a friendly element that was pinned down by Viet Cong fire. As the platoon approached the friendly element, they came under intense sniper and machine gun fire and were pinned down. Specialist Four Olson detected a slight movement approximately one hundred meters away. Realizing that he could not place effective fire on the hostile target from his present position, Specialist Four Olson picked up his machine gun and, without orders, he and his assistant rushed across a small clearing to a better position. He then fired into the hostile position and killed one of the snipers. While advancing on a Viet Cong machine gun position, his comrade was wounded. Specialist Four Olson quickly rendered first aid to his wounded assistant, and began firing to enable him to crawl to safety. As Specialist Four Olson attempted to reload his machine gun, the Viet Cong concentrated a deadly volume of fire on his position, and mortally wounded him. Because Specialist Four Olson had drawn the hostile fire on himself, the platoon was able to maneuver, eliminate the machine gun position, seize the village, and inflict numerous casualties on the Viet Cong. Specialist Four Olson's 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.