

HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 307

29 March 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

LONG, CLARENCE D FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY United States Army
Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, APO San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 31 December 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Gallantry in action: First Lieutenant Long's platoon had just moved to the vicinity of the weapons platoon to receive a resupply and assume a defensive position during the forty-eight hour New Years truce. As the second helicopter to arrive delivered the resupply, the landing zone was hit by numerous rounds of mortar fire. This was immediately followed by an intense volume of automatic and small arms fire. Lieutenant Long was supervising the unloading of the helicopter when the first rounds fell. He shouted for his men to take cover in a ditch and to return the fire. Lieutenant Long ran back and forth along the ditch exposing himself repeatedly to direct the fire of his men. One of his troops was hit by a burst of automatic weapons fire and was lying exposed to enemy fire in the middle of the landing zone. Lieutenant Long, with complete disregard for his personal safety, ran forward firing his M-79 at enemy positions until he reached his fallen comrade. With the help of a non-commissioned officer, he moved the wounded man to cover. He then ran across an open area to put his machine gun teams into action in better positions. When the initial fire was suppressed, he called for artillery fire and directed gunship strikes. He also requested an air strike and exposed himself to sniper fire to better observe and adjust the strike. After the battle Lieutenant Long reorganized the two platoons and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. Lieutenant Long's outstanding gallantry in action and avid devotion to duty are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

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

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

LINTON S. DOATWRIGHT
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

William G. James
WILLIAM G. JAMES
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General