



HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO US Forces 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 2996

20 May 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

MELTON, ROBERT C. FIRST SERGEANT E8 United States Army  
Co C, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO US Forces 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 6 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: First Sergeant Melton distinguished himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a First Sergeant during a company assault on the village of Thanh Thien, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1400 hours, as First Sergeant Melton's company moved from a river bed, a Viet Cong force unleashed a devastating volume of automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. First Sergeant Melton immediately joined the company assault line, exposed himself to the intense Viet Cong fire as he moved from man to man, shouting words of encouragement, and directed fire on the hostile emplacements. First Sergeant Melton's inspiring leadership motivated the men and caused them to keep the assault line moving aggressively. When they neared the village, First Sergeant Melton rejoined the command element and assisted in the control of the unit. As they moved across a clearing, he discovered a seriously wounded soldier. Despite the intense Viet Cong fire, First Sergeant Melton carried the wounded man 35 meters to the safety of a dike. When two companies were pinned down by intense hostile fire from mutually supporting Viet Cong bunkers, First Sergeant Melton moved aggressively to within 10 meters of one bunker, threw a grenade into it, killed four Viet Cong, and destroyed the bunker. He then placed suppressive fire on two other bunkers while the elements of the companies advanced and destroyed the bunkers with hand grenades. Later, First Sergeant Melton organized the two elements into one unit and destroyed a final bunker. First Sergeant Melton's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a 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 1916.