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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 2479

26 April 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

EMERSON, HENRY E. LIEUTENANT COLONEL INFANTRY United States Army
HHC, 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: Lieutenant Colonel Emerson distinguished himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commander of a battalion which was engaged with a well trained and heavily armed Viet Cong battalion near Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. After directing the tactical deployment of his elements, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson became airborne in a H-13, a light observation helicopter, to continue the effective control of his maneuvering assault troops. While performing this courageous act, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson's aircraft received intense automatic weapons and small arms ground fire. Despite this, he remained over the battle area, pin-pointed hostile emplacements, and analyzed the developing situations. Late that afternoon, the Viet Cong launched a heavy assault on the friendly force. At this time, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson landed his aircraft on the fire swept battlefield and personally directed the fire of his troops while repeatedly exposed to intense hostile fire. During the course of action, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, further exposed himself to Viet Cong fire while directing the medical evacuation of wounded. His outstanding devotion to duty, personal bravery, and leadership contributed immeasurably to the overwhelming defeat of the Viet Cong in that area. Lieutenant Colonel Emerson's gallant actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect 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.