

HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 153

11 February 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SANCHEZ, JUAN JR PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States Army Head-
quarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne) 502d Infantry, APO
San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 2 February 1966

Theater: Gallantry in action: Private First Class Sanchez was a member of
an element consisting of a wire laying team and one squad from the
recondo platoon which had been given the mission of laying a section
of wire. As the element approached a small village it was suddenly
brought under heavy fire from an enemy ambush. Private Sanchez
immediately began to fire his machine gun into the enemy positions
only to have it jam after several short bursts. Realizing how pre-
carious the situation was becoming, Private Sanchez charged through
the murderous fire and obtained a pistol from his Squad Leader and
again with complete disregard for his own personal safety returned
through the fire to secure the right flank. Private Sanchez again
exposed himself to the intense enemy fire, firing a rocket launcher
which he had been carrying into one of the enemy machine gun positions,
killing several of the enemy soldiers and knocking out the machine gun.
Private Sanchez then returned to his machine gun, broke it down, and
corrected the malfunction. When the machine gun was again put into
operating condition Private Sanchez began directing suppressive fire
into the enemy position. After a short period of time, Private Sanchez
was wounded in the leg but refused medical aid and began to secure his
equipment so that it would not get into enemy hands. At this time
Private Sanchez observed that one of his comrades had been wounded and
lay in an exposed area. Private Sanchez, disregarding his own safety
and wounds, crawled to the side of his wounded comrade and dragged him
to an area where he could be evacuated. Private Sanchez's outstanding
display of courage and his 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 USARY Message
16695, 1 July 1966 and paragraph 27, AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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

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