

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 4591

12 July 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. FC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

KOONTZ, LAWRENCE N. PLATOON SERGEANT E7 United States Army
HHC, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 10 May 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Platoon Sergeant Koontz distinguished himself on 10 May 1966 while serving as platoon sergeant on a combat operation near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, the lead element of his platoon received intense hostile fire. Platoon Sergeant Koontz ran to the front of his platoon to reorganize his men. During the course of action he dauntlessly exposed himself to direct Viet Cong fire while carrying a fallen comrade from the killing zone. Shortly after this, the Viet Cong launched a determined assault on his position. Braving almost certain death, Platoon Sergeant Koontz immediately charged the assaulting Viet Cong and killed three insurgents at extremely close range. Aggressively continuing his assault, Platoon Sergeant Koontz singlehandedly repelled the Viet Cong attack. After establishing a hasty defense, he personally led five men in an assault to expand the perimeter. The Viet Cong fire became more intense and Platoon Sergeant Koontz was seriously wounded. Although in great pain, he refused medical attention and continued to direct his troops in their assault. Through his heroic efforts, Platoon Sergeant Koontz was most instrumental in routing the insurgents. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong 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.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



L. F. HARGIS
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

RICHARD J. SEITZ
Brigadier General, US Army
Chief of Staff