

HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 162

13 February 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CLEMONS, RICHARD F PLATOON SERGEANT E7 United States Army Head-
quarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, APO
San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 9 November 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Gallantry in action: Platoon Sergeant Clemons' unit was given the mission of blocking the escape of a known North Vietnamese Army battalion, while other elements of the battalion moved in to encircle the enemy area. While moving into position, Sergeant Clemons' unit made contact with a North Vietnamese Army "Trail Watcher". Realizing that the enemy had been alerted to the fact that American forces were in the area, Sergeant Clemons quickly maneuvered his men forward to find the main enemy body before it could escape. After moving a short distance, Sergeant Clemons' section suddenly came under intense enemy fire from sixteen well fortified enemy positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Clemons quickly reorganized his section and led it in an assault on the enemy positions. Sergeant Clemons moved from flank to flank directing the attack and also the redistribution of ammunition. On one occasion, Sergeant Clemons personally moved into an exposed area and carried a wounded man to safety and rendered the needed medical aid. Several times during the battle, the enemy fire became so intense that small elements of Sergeant Clemons' section became pinned down. Sergeant Clemons immediately moved to the men and led them to safer positions, then personally assaulted a machine gun position, knocking it out with a hand grenade, killing one enemy soldier and wounding another. After the machine gun position had been destroyed, Sergeant Clemons continued to maneuver his section in a successful assault. Sergeant Clemons' outstanding display of leadership and his gallantry in action are in the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

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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 H. James
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Colonel, ASC
Adjutant General