

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 123

22 July 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CONLON, ALTAIR F. CAPTAIN, INFANTRY, United States Army, Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 28 April 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action while under hostile fire on 28 April 1967 near Khanh Dong, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Company A, 2d Battalion, 502d (Airborne) Infantry was moving along the heavily vegetated slopes of a mountain when the lead element suddenly came under an intense volume of enemy rifle fire. Captain Conlon, very conscious of the fact that both the lead platoon leader and squad leader were new and inexperienced and that the men were hot and tired and had not had any contact for some time, he unhesitatingly rushed forward, picking up grenades from several riflemen as he moved. Upon reaching the lead squad, Captain Conlon found that they were under a tremendous volume of fire from extremely well fortified enemy positions among some large boulders on the high ground. Realizing the squad was in a dangerous position and slow to react, Captain Conlon with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire and began throwing grenades and placing effective fire into the enemy positions. The effectiveness of Captain Conlon's solo assault inspired his men to such a degree that they immediately began to fire and maneuver against the enemy positions. Again, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Conlon moved to an area completely exposed to intense enemy fire and began directing supporting fire so as to cover the maneuver of his forward elements. Upon overrunning the enemy positions it was apparent that several of the enemy soldiers had been wounded. Unhesitatingly, Captain Conlon quickly organized and personally led a small element in pursuit of the fleeing enemy soldiers. As a result of Captain Conlon's professionalism and undaunted actions two enemy soldiers were killed, several were wounded, and one enemy automatic weapon was captured. Captain Conlon's outstanding display of gallantry, devotion to duty, and unquestionable valor in close combat against numerically superior hostile forces are in keeping with the finest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.