

HEADQUARTERS
TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 480

2 September 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BELDING, DAVID M. FIRST LIEUTENANT, INFANTRY, United States Army,
Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st
Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date Action: 25 February 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 25 February 1967 near Song Mac, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Belding's platoon was air-lifted into an area where a blocking action was to be set up. After landing, the platoon left the landing zone and moved down a jungle trail. Approximately eleven hundred meters away from the landing zone, the point man encountered three hostile soldiers. Both elements began firing at the same time. Lieutenant Belding quickly deployed the platoon and started maneuvering them toward the enemy force, when the right flank erupted into a hail of hostile fire. Before he could effect a reorganization of his platoon, to cope with the fire from the right flank, the left flank also came under heavy fire. Receiving fire from three sides, Lieutenant Belding began to move the platoon to the rear so that the men could replenish their ammunition, which was stored back at the landing zone with the rest of the equipment. A small element of insurgents had maneuvered behind them, leaving the friendly platoon completely surrounded and cut off from their source of supply. With total disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant Belding rushed through the intensive hail of fire and began directing the fire of his men. After identifying the targets, Lieutenant Belding called in artillery and exposed himself to the hostile fire. After calling in air strikes, he moved through the area, under fire, giving aid to the wounded and comforting them as best he could. The air strikes coupled with the renewed efforts of the platoon, resulted in the retreat of the enemy forces. Lieutenant Belding then directed the preparation of a landing zone for the evacuation of the wounded personnel. Lieutenant Belding's heroic actions while engaged in close combat with a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1913.