

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1402

27 November 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TG 320. The following AWARD is announced.

COURTNEY, THOMAS J. 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: 13 and 14 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 and 14 August 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. As First Lieutenant Courtney's company prepared to move from a landing zone after an airborne assault, it was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army Battalion armed with grenades, mortar, heavy machineguns and automatic weapons. Lieutenant Courtney was instructed to maneuver his platoon to another portion of the hastily constructed perimeter to assist a platoon which had borne the brunt of the initial attack. After Lieutenant Courtney had reached the other platoon and positioned his men, a well dug-in machinegun opened fire pinning down both platoons. Without concern for his own safety, Lieutenant Courtney stood up, exposing himself to the withering enemy fire, and calmly threw two grenades into the machinegun position which badly damaged the gun and killed two enemy soldiers. The enemy element then commenced a flanking maneuver. Observing this, Lieutenant Courtney, again with no regard for his own safety, picked up a machinegun and moved through the devastating fire completely exposed. He engaged the flanking enemy from a position well forward of the perimeter and his effective fire forced the hostile force to withdraw, leaving several dead and wounded. His aggressive spirit and courageous deeds rallied the men in both platoons and were instrumental in the ultimate victory over a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force. First Lieutenant Courtney's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the finest traditions of the Military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the American Division, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, 9 July 1918.