

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1387

25 November 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SMITH, HUGH M. RA FIRST SERGEANT E8, United States Army,
Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st
Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 13 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Shortly after the last elements of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry had reached a landing zone, the point station was brought under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons, rocket, and rifle grenade fire. As the intensity of the battle increased it was necessary for the artillery forward observer to call for artillery fire around the perimeter. Realizing that the forward observer would be unable to effectively adjust the artillery fire by himself, First Sergeant Smith, with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed through the intense enemy fire to an exposed position where he could assist in adjusting the fire. Almost immediately, First Sergeant Smith was brought under sniper and grenade fire and wounded. ~~Not~~ regarding his wounds and his safety, First Sergeant Smith remained in his exposed position and returned the enemy fire, killing three enemy soldiers while he continued to relay information to the forward observer and adjust artillery fire. During the later stages of the battle it was necessary to get three emergency ammunition resupplies for the company. First Sergeant Smith immediately took charge of the distribution of the ammunition and, on several occasions, personally carried ammunition to some of the positions. When the medical evacuation helicopter was able to land, he personally directed the evacuation of all the casualties. First Sergeant Smith's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest 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, approved 9 July 1916.