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 HEADQUARTERS
 TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
 APO San Francisco 96374

 GENERAL ORDERS
 NUMBER 509

4 September 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR
(FIRST G.R. LEAF CLUSTER)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

ODOM, DONALD G. CAPTAIN, INFANTRY, United States Army, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO 96374

Awarded: Silver Star (1st Oak Leaf Cluster)

Date action: 13 and 14 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy on 13 and 14 August 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1700 hours on 13 August 1967, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, conducted a helicopter assault into an area north west of Chu Lai. Shortly after the last elements of the company had landed, a platoon moving down the hill from the landing zone was suddenly taken under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Captain Odom immediately directed the platoon to pull back to the landing zone where he quickly organized a company perimeter defense. Shortly after, an estimated insurgent Battalion initiated a full scale attack on the friendly positions. As the enemy element began to place a tremendous volume of automatic weapons, mortar, rocket, and rifle grenade fire into the friendly positions, Captain Odom exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire while moving among his own positions giving them encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out enemy positions. For over thirteen hours the battle raged and Captain Odom directed extremely effective supporting fire from artillery, gunships and flare ships. The determined enemy element continued to assault the friendly positions with human wave assault teams time and time again. Numerous times Captain Odom with complete disregard for his own personal safety, dashed through the bullet swept area and pulled wounded men to safety and gave them medical aid. During the entire battle Captain Odom displayed such a high degree of heroism that his men became so inspired by his action that they were able to successfully defend their positions from the determined enemy force. When the battle ended and the enemy element withdrew, thirty five enemy dead were counted, eighteen automatic and semi-automatic weapons were captured and also two machine-guns and two rocket launchers. Captain Odom's outstanding display of gallantry in the face of insurmountable odds, is in keeping the highest military traditions and reflects immeasurable credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon and the United States Army.