

HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 251

15 March 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

FRANKS, WILLIAM J PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States Army
Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, APO San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 25 February 1967


Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Gallantry in action: Private First Class Franks' platoon, while on a search and destroy mission near Ban Me Thuot, was suddenly brought under a tremendous volume of enemy fire from an estimated company size element in fortified positions. As the platoon moved forward in the assault, Private Franks observed an enemy machine gun position to his front that was placing murderous fire on an element of his platoon. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Franks exposed himself to the enemy fire and began firing his weapon into the enemy position. Realizing that his fire was not effective and that he must act quickly, Private Franks jumped up and charged the enemy position, firing as he ran. When Private Franks was approximately twenty meters from the enemy machine gun he was struck by an enemy bullet and knocked to the ground. Getting on his feet Private Franks continued to assault the enemy position until he was struck by another enemy bullet and mortally wounded. As a result of Private Franks' courageous actions the enemy position was destroyed and many lives were saved. Private Franks' outstanding gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of USARV Message 16695, 1 July 1966 and paragraph 27, AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:


WILLIAM H. JAMES
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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