

**HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350**

**GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 609**

1 August 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

HENDRICKS, FRED A SERGEANT E5 United States Army Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, APO San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 10 February 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Gallantry in action: While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Hendricks was moving his squad along a stream when they discovered a rice and salt cache. Realizing the possibility of the enemy being near, Sergeant Hendricks left half of his squad to destroy the cache and with the remainder, he began to establish security on high ground overlooking the stream. Suddenly they were brought under fire by two Viet Cong. Sergeant Hendricks quickly returned the enemy fire and personally killed one enemy soldier and wounded the other. As Sergeant Hendricks maneuvered his element through the enemy position, he suddenly discovered a cleverly concealed complex of approximately twenty buildings and numerous bunkers with people running in apparent confusion. Realizing that he and his squad were up against an estimated reinforced platoon and that the element of surprise was important, Sergeant Hendricks charged forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety and began throwing grenades into the bunkers and dwellings. Sergeant Hendricks' squad quickly followed their inspirational leader without hesitation. Entering one of the dwellings, Sergeant Hendricks came face to face with an enemy soldier pointing a submachine gun directly at him. Dropping to the floor Sergeant Hendricks fired a burst from his weapon and killed the enemy soldier. It was later discovered that the enemy soldier was identified as a North Vietnamese lieutenant who was the camp commander. Sergeant Hendricks continued to lead his men in the lightning assault on the enemy, forcing the numerically superior element to withdraw from the battle area. As a result of Sergeant Hendricks' actions, an enemy base camp was captured and numerous prisoners of the Viet Cong were liberated. His superior leadership and courageous actions inspired his men to such a degree that the small fire team element routed an estimated reinforced platoon-size enemy element. Sergeant Hendricks' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.