

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 173

3 August 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BLUE, JOSIAH JR. RA , STAFF SERGEANT E6, United States Army,
Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 25 February 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 25 February 1967 near Di Linh, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission southwest of Di Linh, the third platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry came under an unusually heavy volume of hostile fire from an estimated reinforced North Vietnamese weapons platoon. Staff Sergeant Blue quickly tried to lead his squad through the fire in a flanking movement but was halted by the intense fire from an enemy machinegun position. Realizing the situation had become critical, he had his men withdraw and set up a perimeter with the rest of the platoon. While withdrawing, Staff Sergeant Blue, with complete disregard for his own safety, ran back through the increasing enemy fire to retrieve a wounded comrade and carried him back to safety. During the ensuing two hour battle, Staff Sergeant Blue moved from position to position throughout the perimeter pointing out targets, aiding the wounded and shouting words of encouragement. He also manned a machinegun position and killed two hostiles and wounded a third. When another machinegunner took his place, Staff Sergeant Blue exposed himself again to enemy fire and destroyed an enemy machinegun position with a hand grenade which killed both occupants. His courageous acts were instrumental in helping his platoon rally and hold off a numerically superior enemy force for two hours until help arrived. Staff Sergeant Blue's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty against a numerically superior hostile force is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force OREGON, and the United States Army.

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