

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1349

23 November 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

KEANE, JOHN M. FIRST LIEUTENANT, INFANTRY, United States Army,
Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st
Airborne Division APO 96374

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action 18 May 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Phu, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Keane distinguished himself when given the mission to move his platoon to an area where another platoon had become heavily engaged and surrounded by an enemy element. Lieutenant Keane quickly organized his platoon and moved them approximately two thousand meters to the scene of the battle. Upon arriving at the battle area, Lieutenant Keane, realizing that darkness was rapidly descending and that he must reach the beleaguered platoon as soon as possible, quickly maneuvered his platoon into position to assault the rear and both flanks of the enemy element. Lieutenant Keane, aware that maintaining strict control would be the key factor in the execution of a successful assault, directed his platoon not to open fire until fired upon. After having moved less than one hundred meters, the platoon was suddenly brought under a withering hail of enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Keane rushed through the heavy enemy fire, giving his men encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out the muzzle flashes from enemy positions. Lieutenant Keane led and directed the assault into the enemy with such aggressiveness, and his men were so inspired by his courage, that the assault element successfully overran the enemy positions, forcing the enemy to hastily flee the battle area. First Lieutenant Keane's outstanding gallantry, leadership and 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 1918.