

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1297

16 November 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

FUCKETT, RALPH JR. , LIEUTENANT COLONEL, INFANTRY, United States Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 27 September 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During the hours of darkness on that evening, a small enemy element infiltrated the defensive perimeter of the Tactical Command Post, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry and initiated an attack with grenades and automatic weapons fire. In the initial stage of the attack, a hand grenade landed approximately eighteen inches from Colonel Fickett's head and exploded, wounding him in the head and seriously affecting his hearing. Dazed and bleeding, Colonel Fickett staggered to his feet and, without hesitation, rushed into the raging battle and immediately began to reorganize the defensive perimeter. With complete disregard for his own safety, Colonel Fickett rushed through the withering hail of enemy grenades and automatic weapons fire and moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and directing their fire. Throughout the remainder of the night Colonel Fickett completely disregarded his wounds and personal safety as he directed all aspects of the defense of the Tactical Command Post and an artillery battery. When Medevac helicopters arrived, Colonel Fickett supervised the evacuation of his wounded men and refused evacuation until his men had been cared for and the situation had returned to normal. The actions of Colonel Fickett undoubtedly inspired his men to such a degree that they successfully defended their positions and forced the enemy to withdraw. Lieutenant Colonel Fickett's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions 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.