

HEADQUARTERS  
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 451

3 June 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL  
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

EASTERLING, EARL K STAFF SERGEANT E6 United States Army Head-  
quarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry,  
APO San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 22 April 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam


Reason: Gallantry in action: While moving up a steep, rocky, heavily  
vegetated ravine, Staff Sergeant Easterling's squad was fired upon  
by a dug-in North Vietnamese element. The initial burst of fire  
wounded two men that were near the front of the formation. With  
complete disregard for his own personal safety Sergeant Easterling  
dashed through a withering hail of enemy automatic weapons fire to  
the forwardmost position of his squad. After making an estimate  
of the situation, Sergeant Easterling deployed his squad on line  
and began to maneuver on the enemy. When the squad was in close  
proximity of the enemy position, Sergeant Easterling led an  
assault on the entrenched North Vietnamese soldiers. It was  
during this courageous action that Sergeant Easterling was mor-  
tally wounded. Sergeant Easterling's courageous leadership so  
influenced his squad that it was able to sweep over the fortified  
positions and route the enemy. Sergeant Easterling's actions and  
demonstrated gallantry in action are in keeping with the highest  
traditions of the military service 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:

LIMON S. BOATWRIGHT  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff

  
WILLIAM H. JAMES  
Colonel, AGC  
Adjutant General

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