

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division  
APO San Francisco 96333

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 443

15 April 1968

SECTION I

THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

HARRISON, JOHN E SECOND LIEUTENANT INFANTRY Company  
A 3d Battalion (Airborne) 506th Infantry APO San Francisco 96333

Awarded: The Silver Star Medal

Date action: 2 February 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 2 February 1968 in the Republic of Vietnam. Second Lieutenant Harrison distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader on a search and destroy operation in Binh Thuan Province. Early in the afternoon his unit made contact with an estimated Viet Cong company entrenched in heavily fortified bunkers. His platoon was pinned down by intensive automatic weapons, rocket, machinegun, and mortar fire. Without regard for his personal safety, Second Lieutenant Harrison repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to direct friendly fire on enemy positions. On two occasions when members of his platoon were unable to move, he moved to strategic locations to fire on the enemy and reduce their effectiveness. During the night, Second Lieutenant Harrison volunteered to lead an element to retrieve three of his men who had been cut off and wounded during the earlier fighting. Again he was exposed to automatic weapons and mortar fire, but reached and extracted the cut off members without sustaining any friendly casualties. Second Lieutenant Harrison's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of the Act of Congress established 9 July 1916.

RODELLI, JOHN R SECOND LIEUTENANT INFANTRY Company A  
2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star Medal

Date action: 3 February 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1968. Second Lieutenant John R Rodelli distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Leader of the 1st Platoon of Alfa Company 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Lieutenant Rodelli was with his platoon on an aerial mission in a CH-47 helicopter when the aircraft came under enemy fire, severely wounding one of his men and tearing into the starboard engine of the helicopter, thus disabling it. Told by the pilot that the helicopter was going to crash, Lieutenant Rodelli quickly organized a perimeter defense to be established immediately upon contact with the ground. His calm manner and precise orders served well to prepare his men in advance and quell the fear that immediately rose with the news of the impending crash. Once on the ground the platoon evacuated the helicopter and formed a perimeter defense to return the

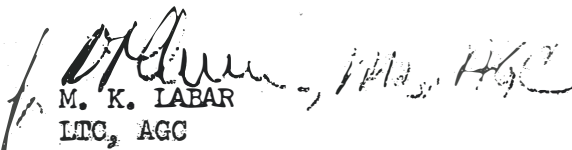
enemy fire. With enemy automatic weapons fire coming in, Lieutenant Rodelli calmly placed his men and directed the fire, at the same time calling in a medivac helicopter, and radioing back for another CH-47 helicopter to come in to pick up his platoon. Then under enemy fire Lieutenant Rodelli rushed back inside the inflamed aircraft along with a medic to help treat the wounded man who was still strapped to his seat and bleeding severely. Provided with excellent covering fire, the medivac picked up the wounded man, and the requested CH-47 helicopter landed to evacuate the rest of the platoon. With outstanding professional skill and exceptional bravery under fire, Lieutenant Rodelli directed his men aboard the helicopter while keeping the enemy no more than thirty-five meters distant, pinned down. In their defense Lieutenant Rodelli's men killed at least two enemy soldiers while suffering no casualties themselves. The successful defense and evacuation of his platoon as well as his personal conduct is testimony to Lieutenant Rodelli's outstanding heroism and high degree of professional skill under fire. Second Lieutenant Rodelli's extraordinary heroism is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of the Act of Congress established 9 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

W. P. TALLON, JR  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

  
M. K. LABAR  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

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