

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division  
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 2495

19 March 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

HALE, WILLIAM R. 093479 MAJOR INFANTRY Company B 1st Battalion  
502d Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star

Effective Month:

Date action: 13 September 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

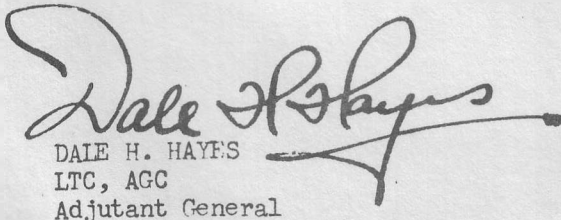
Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 September 1968. Major Hale distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while serving as Company Commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, during combat operations near Ap Cao Ia, Republic of Vietnam. Major Hale, then Captain Hale, was leading his unit on a reconnaissance of a contested area when the second platoon was caught in a hail of enemy fire from well-concealed ambush positions. After a swift but prudent assessment of the situation, he moved quickly to overcome the enemy's advantage by immediately directing the second platoon into positions to initiate suppressive fire. Then, with complete disregard for his personal safety, he led his element into the battle. Oblivious to the volume of fire, he occupied a vulnerable position in order to gather his forces in preparation for an advance against the enemy. Major Hale's conspicuous bravery reinforced the morale of his troops and, though at an initial disadvantage, enabled his outnumbered men to seize the initiative against the enemy. Maneuvering into a cordon around the enemy, Major Hale methodically pursued them to their eventual defeat. Nineteen Viet Cong insurgents were killed and twenty captured, yet no friendly casualties were incurred due to Major Hale's extraordinary bravery in close combat against a numerically superior force. Major Hale's actions were 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 of the United States under provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

L. L. MOWERY  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

  
DALE H. HAYES  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

D - Plus  
13 - AVDG-AG-B  
5 - AVDG-IN  
2 - AVDG-AG-O

5 - CO, B/1/502d Inf  
5 - CO, 1/502d Inf  
5 - CO, 1st Bde

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

1 - TAGO ATTN: AGPF-F