

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division  
AFC San Francisco 96373

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 904

28 January 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

WERTZ, PAUL F 096273 (Not Available) CAPTAIN INFANTRY Company C 2d Battalion  
(Airborne) 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96373

Awarded: The Silver Star

Effective month: January 1969

Date action: 17 November 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 November 1968. Captain Wertz distinguished himself while serving as Company Commander of Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, on a combat operation near the village of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam. The company, led by the First Platoon, was engaged in a large sweep designed to drive insurgents from fortified positions. As it moved out, the Third Platoon came under heavy enemy fire. Captain Wertz immediately moved forward from his rear position to the lead element of the platoon to assess the situation. After making his assessment, Captain Wertz again moved through the heavy automatic weapons fire to the Third Platoon and personally directed its movement. Despite the heavy fire and with complete disregard for his own welfare, Captain Wertz again moved with the forward element of the platoon in order to effectively control the flanking attack on the enemy. Through informants captured during the sweep, it was determined that an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Regulars waited to ambush the company. Because of the enemy's numerical superiority and proximity, Captain Wertz chose to withdraw in order to call in effective artillery fire. Captain Wertz personally directed all elements of the company in an orderly withdrawal and, in spite of the heavy enemy fire, remained in place until assured that all elements of his company had withdrawn. Captain Wertz's personal bravery and devotion to duty 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 the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1958.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

L. L. MOWERY  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

*fa-MLM*  
DALE H. HAYES  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

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