

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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 5209

19 August 1968

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

MCKINNEY, WILLIAM R. FIRST LIETENANT Headquarters &  
Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne) 502d Infantry APO San Fancisco 96383

Awarded: The Siler Star

Effective month: August 1968

Date of Service: 8 March 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 March 1968. First Lieutenant McKinney distinguished himself while on combat operation in the vicinity of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. Contact was made with an enemy force in excess of a company. The enemy struck with such speed and accuracy that the lead element immediately became ineffective. First Lieutenant McKinney, platoon leader of the rear platoon, hurriedly led his platoon around the front elements and engaged the enemy. The lead element was then able to recover their wounded and reorganize. The M-60 machine-guns, being the platoons main support weapon, were constantly running low on ammunition. On several occasions, and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, First Lieutenant McKinney ran through exposed terrain, braving the intense enemy automatic weapons fire to resupply his machine gunners with the critically needed ammunition. As the contact raged to full capacity of enemy automatic weapons fire, First Lieutenant McKinney simultaneously adjusted artillery from the foremost point of contact and directed his platoon's fire. In an attempt to overrun the main enemy stronghold, two friendly troops were killed within several meters of their objective. First Lieutenant McKinney organized a small element and again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, led them in an attempt to recover his dead troops. Under cover of friendly fire, First Lieutenant McKinney crawled forward, slowly diminishing the distance between himself and the dead troops. When almost distance for safety, he centralized his platoon's entire fire power on the enemy objective and was successful on his second attempt at getting the bodies. The company then joined in a swift assault and dispersed the enemy element. First Lieutenant McKinney's outstanding display of gallantry in action and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest tradition 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 previsions of the Act of Congress approved 25 July 1963.

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