Copyright 2017 by Ryan Niebuhr @ 2ndbde.org or as attributed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Headquarters 101st Arroome Division APO San Princisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 3194 6 July 196'.

SECTION I

THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

INFUTENANT COLONEL INFANTRY Headquarters DANFORD. HOWARD H Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 502nd Infantry lClst Airborne Division APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (First Sax Leus Cluster) Date action: 6 April 1968 through / April 1958

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Lieutemant Colonel Darford distinguished himself by gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 and 7 April 1968, while serving as Battalion Commander for the 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 502nd Infantry. During a search and destroy mission Company A became heavily engaged with an estimated two companies of North Vietnamese Army soldiers lodged in wellconcealed burkers with interlocking fields of fire. Three casualties were taken in Company A in the initial contact. The company commander recoiled from the contact in order to set up a perimeter to get out his wounded and to prop the area with artillery prior to continuing the attack. The perimeter swickly became under intense sniper fire from the surrounding trees. This fire included automatic weapons and occasional RPG rockets. Casualties continued to mount up until approximately ten men were wounded. A hedi-Vac helicopter, on its final approach to the area, received automatic wanpons fire and was shot down just outside the perimeter. A recovery force reached it and brought back the three wounded crew numbers. Company I now had thirteen wounded to care for. The company commander called Lieutenant Colonel Danford to inform him of the situation. Realizing the periousness of the situation, he alerted Company B to be prepared to move to assist A Company. Word came in to the TAC-OP that A Company was continuing to take casualties and Lieutenant Colonal Daniord then ordered Company B to move to A Company's assistance. He personally took charge of the relief force and moved with them on the ground. His presence had an electrifying effect on the troopers of a Commany. They increased their alertness and aggressiveness because they realized, because of his presence, how important their mission was. They moved out late in the afternoon, and traveled well into the might, At approximately 1200 hours the following day, contact was made with an estimated squad of NVA soldiers in bunkers. Lieutenant Colonel Danford was everywhere in the resulting fire fight, shouting encouragement and advice to all his men. He exposed himself to the intense hail of enemy fire with complete disregard for his own personal safety. 3 Company assaulted and the result was two NVA ktlled and capturing two individual weapons. He then reorganized the relief force and continued on to the beleagured A Company. At approximately 1500 hours the relief force succeeded in breaking through the NVA forces to relieve A Company. The A Company commander was wounded and Lieutenant Colonel Danford assumed command of the element and immediately initiated sweeps to clear the area, supervised the preparation of an

DA, HQ 101st Abn Div APO SF 96383

6 Jul 68

LZ and personally supervised the evacuation of all tie wounded. Lieutenant Colonel Danford's presence in the midst c' the fire swept battle area calmed the troops and reassured th:n. He appeared to be everywhere giving encouragement and advice. L. sutenant Colonel Danford's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are 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 provisions established by the Act of Congress on 9 July 1916.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

GO 3194

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

LTC, AGC Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

D - Plus

15 - Div Orders

3 - USARV ATTN: AVHAG-FD APO SF 96375

13 - AVDG-AG-B

5 - AVDG-IN

3 - AVDG-AG-A

2 - AVDG-AG-C

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

1 - TAGO ATTN: AGPF-F Wash DC 20315

5 - CO, HHC, 2d Bn, 502d Inf 5 - CO, 2d Bn, 502d Inf

5 - CO, 1st Bde