

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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 8417

7 July 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

PLACIOS, TONY SPECIALIST FOUR Company A 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 501st  
Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Effective month: N/A

Date action: 3 April 1969

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 3 April 1969. Specialist Four Palacios distinguished himself while serving as rifleman in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a reconnaissance in force operation in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Palacios volunteered to walk in the lead position. While negotiating a particularly dense area of thick brush, he spotted several enemy soldiers crouching on the jungle floor just ahead of his advancing platoon. He then passed a hand warning to his platoon, alerting it of the impending danger, and then proceeded to steal the initiative from the enemy. He assaulted into the enemy position, personally killing two North Vietnamese and forcing the others to retreat. Late in the afternoon, heavy rainfall accompanied by a thick fog reduced visibility to near zero, and the platoon was subjected to sniper fire. Specialist Palacios, from his lead position, was first to spot the source of fire. He directed his M-16 rifle fire into a clump of thickly foliated trees to his right flank, and the sniper fire stopped. He found a bloodtrail and an abandoned AK-47 rifle. He personally accounted for at least three enemy casualties and one captured weapon. Specialist Palacios' 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 25 July 1963.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. H. MURLEY  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

*for M. H. Marsh MAJ AGC*  
DALE H. HAYES  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

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