

HEADQUARTERS  
 UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
 APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
 NUMBER 1833

9 December 1965

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SMITH, WILFRED K. S.            LIEUTENANT COLONEL Infantry United States Army, MNC, 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div, APO US Forces 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 18 to 19 September 1965

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Lieutenant Colonel Smith distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 to 19 September 1965, while serving as a battalion commander conducting a heliborne search and destroy operation in the mountainous region north of Binh Khe, Republic of Vietnam. Initially the operation met little or no resistance other than light sporadic small arms fire. Upon the arrival of the second lift, which included Lieutenant Colonel Smith and his tactical command post, fierce accurate small arms and automatic weapons fire, supported by mortars, pinned down the entire force. Within minutes two company commanders were wounded and evacuated. The battalion S3 and the one remaining company commander were killed shortly thereafter, leaving Lieutenant Colonel Smith as the only senior officer present. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he moved from position to position adjusting his defenses, offering words of encouragement, and insuring proper care of the dead and wounded. For seventy six hours under Lieutenant Colonel Smith's inspirational leadership, his men beat off each attack and killed over two hundred enemy soldiers. His extraordinary heroism and outstanding leadership in the face of overwhelming odds 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 under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

JOHN D. MCLAUGHLIN  
 Colonel, GS  
 Chief of Staff

*James D. Clifton*  
 JAMES D. CLIFTON  
 1st Lt, AGC  
 Asst Adj General