

RAL ORDERS

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**I. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.** 1. The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 25, 1963, has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to:

Master Sergeant *Thomas J. Kemmer*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by extraordinary gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint United States Army and Air Force raiding force organized by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to conduct a heliborne assault in a heroic effort to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After debarking from the assault helicopter which crash-landed inside the prison compound, Sergeant *Kemmer* aggressively maneuvered to secure and clear his preplanned position. Immediately upon reaching his position, he faced a sudden attack of North Vietnamese soldiers moving from the north area of the compound in an apparent attempt to reinforce the east gate area. With complete disregard for his life, Sergeant *Kemmer* remained at his exposed and unconcealed position and fearlessly engaged the attacking enemy with his rifle. Sergeant *Kemmer* then unhesitatingly continued his preplanned task of searching and clearing a key cell block. Sergeant *Kemmer's* bold and courageous actions were an inspiration to his comrades and contributed immeasurably to the successful execution of the raid. His extraordinary gallantry in action is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on him and the United States Army.

2. The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 25, 1963, has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to:

Captain *Richard J. Meadows*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint United States Army and Air Force raiding force that was organized by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to conduct a heliborne assault in a heroic attempt to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Throughout the execution phase of the raid, Captain *Meadows*, an assault group leader, repeatedly risked his life above and beyond the call of duty to insure the success of the raid. Captain *Meadows* was a passenger on a helicopter that crash-landed inside the prison compound. After debarking from the crashed helicopter, oblivious of enemy fire and without regard for his personal safety and the risk to his life, he singlehandedly cleared the southeast guard tower and two small adjacent buildings. His unhesitating and purposeful action eliminated the enemy threat and enabled his subordinate elements to continue their mission without the danger of small arms fire from those strong points. Immediately thereafter he took up a completely exposed position in the center of the compound where, with the aid of a portable loud speaker, he shouted instructions for the prisoners to follow to expedite their release. This action pinpointed his position. Captain *Meadows'*

calm leadership under fire and unswerving devotion to duty contributed greatly to the successful execution of the raid. Captain *Meadows*' extraordinary gallantry in action is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on him and the United States Army.

3. The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 25, 1963, has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to:

Staff Sergeant *Thomas E. Powell*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970. Disregarding the high degree of personal risk involved, Sergeant *Powell* volunteered to participate in a heliborne assault on the Son Tay prison in North Vietnam in an heroic attempt to rescue United States military personnel being held there as prisoners of war. On insertion into the target area, Sergeant *Powell* completely disregarded his personal safety and exposed himself to automatic weapons fire in order to provide effective supporting machinegun fire for his element. When his fire was masked by friendly troops, he again unhesitatingly braved automatic weapons fire to locate a position from which he could bring withering fire upon the enemy. Sergeant *Powell*'s professionalism, personal courage, and devotion to his fellow team members contributed significantly to the success of the mission. Sergeant *Powell*'s premeditated personal risk, extraordinary heroism in combat, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

4. The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 25, 1963, has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to:

Lieutenant Colonel *Elliott P. Sydnor, Jr.*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by extraordinary gallantry in action on 21 November 1970. Colonel *Sydnor* volunteered to command an all-volunteer raiding force organized to conduct a heliborne assault in an heroic attempt to rescue United States personnel being held as prisoners of war at the Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Colonel *Sydnor* displayed outstanding leadership and personal courage as he personally directed the assault on the compound and the withdrawal of the entire raiding force. Colonel *Sydnor*'s masterful command and control of the operation under the most hazardous combat conditions was exemplary. His keen mind and alertness to the constantly changing situation enabled him to effectively direct and control the actions of the joint assault force air and ground elements and maneuver them as the situation required. In order to maintain the critical control required over the complex raid operation, Colonel *Sydnor* unhesitatingly and fearlessly exposed himself time and time again to the enemy's small arms and automatic weapons fire. When the withdrawal began, Colonel *Sydnor*, with utter disregard for his personal safety, constantly stood fully exposed in the helicopter landing zone in order to direct the withdrawal and insure that not one man was unwittingly left behind. The success of the mission was directly attributed to his dynamic and fearless leadership and to the heroic example he set for his officers and men. The degree of his valorous action was further accentuated by his prior knowledge of the location of the prison compound—eighteen kilometers from the capital city of North Vietnam. Knowing full well the enemy forces were armed with automatic weapons and the target area saturated with enemy installations, high performance aircraft, and antiaircraft defenses; Colonel *Sydnor*'s premeditated

personal risk, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

**II. SILVER STAR. 1.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Donald D. Blackard*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. A member of Sergeant *Blackard's* element came under deadly small arms fire and was pinned down while trying to place a Claymore mine. With total disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant *Blackard* assaulted the enemy position and neutralized the enemy fire, thus saving the life of his comrade. When Sergeant *Blackard's* element was ordered to pull back, he calmly and effectively covered their withdrawal by firing his M-16 rifle. Sergeant *Blackard's* extraordinary bravery enabled his element to accomplish its assigned mission without a single casualty. Sergeant *Blackard's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant *Terry L. Buckler*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Buckler* was the radio operator for the platoon leader of the command element platoon. The command element came under automatic weapons and small arms fire immediately upon debarking from the assault aircraft. Twice he placed himself between his platoon leader and an enemy soldier firing an automatic weapon and eliminated the threat. He continually displayed conspicuous gallantry in the face of hostile fire by placing himself at his platoon leader's side and providing flank security while his leader was organizing an alternate plan. His display of exceptional heroism, above and beyond the call of duty, saved his platoon leader's life and greatly contributed to the success of the mission. Sergeant *Buckler's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

3. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *LeRoy N. Carlson*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North

Vietnam. Sergeant *Carlson*, with complete disregard for his personal safety, exposed himself to automatic weapons fire and placed intensive fire on a two-story building in which the enemy had established a strong point. His fearless and heroic action completely eliminated this threat to the mission. Sergeant *Carlson* again exposed himself to automatic weapons fire while engaged in clearing the camp's headquarters building. He then provided vital cover for other members of his element during the withdrawal to the waiting extraction helicopters. Sergeant *Carlson* was a constant inspiration to his fellow soldiers, fighting valiantly and fearlessly until the mission was completed. Sergeant *Carlson's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

4. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Lieutenant Colonel *Joseph R. Cataldo*, , Medical Corps, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was motivated by a deep compassion for his imprisoned comrades and a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Colonel *Cataldo*, a member of the command group of the raiding force, landed in the target area in the second assault helicopter. As he moved to his assigned security position, he came under fire from the enemy guard quarters. Disregarding this threat, he was able to establish his position and prepare to receive the released prisoners of war and wounded personnel. When the assault plan was suddenly changed, he was able to assist the leader of the command group in recalling his elements. To do so, he exposed himself once again to enemy small arms fire from across the landing zone. When airborne in the extraction helicopter he continued to administer to the wounded and injured while the helicopter was maneuvering violently in an effort to evade enemy surface-to-air missiles. Colonel *Cataldo's* gallant and unselfish actions reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

5. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Anthony Dodge*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Immediately upon entering the prisoner-of-war compound, he exposed himself to enemy small arms fire in an effort to protect the assault group during the clearing period of the search-and-rescue operation. He continued to move from position to position in order to accomplish this covering effort and fulfill his communications duties. Throughout these actions, Sergeant *Dodge* displayed fearless personal conduct. He volunteered to remain in the compound during the initial extraction to give covering and protective fire to the group leader and the demolition specialist while they placed the charge which would destroy a damaged helicopter. Sergeant *Dodge* displayed composure rarely observed on the

field of battle, especially under isolated circumstances such as Son Tay, North Vietnam. Sergeant *Dodge's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

6. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Freddis D. Doss*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Upon debarking from his helicopter, Sergeant *Doss* came under small arms and automatic weapons fire while enroute to his objective. Sergeant *Doss*, with complete disregard for his personal safety, exposed himself to the fire in order that he could gain fire superiority and deliver accurate M-60 machine gun fire on an enemy position to allow the other members of his element to maneuver and neutralize the enemy position. After reaching his objective, Sergeant *Doss* fearlessly exposed himself to the enemy fire to accomplish his mission. His extraordinary heroism contributed greatly to the success of the mission. Sergeant *Doss's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

7. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *Charles G. Erickson*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After exiting from the assault helicopter inside the compound, Sergeant *Erickson*, realizing that any hesitation would enable the enemy forces with concentrated fire to annihilate his element, vigorously moved to his designated position where he was completely exposed to the enemy weapons fire being received in his area. He valiantly held his position in order to cover the remainder of his element. Detecting an enemy force to his rear preparing to assault the main gate, he immediately countered this threat with intense fire, neutralizing the enemy force. Sergeant *Erickson's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

8. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Jerry W. Hill*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Viet-

nam. Sergeant *Hill*, after debarking from his aircraft, immediately came under fire from an enemy force armed with automatic weapons from the objective area. With complete disregard for his personal safety, using fire and movement, Sergeant *Hill* concentrated fire on the enemy, neutralizing the position. His valorous actions under heavy enemy fire and his aggressive attitude in combat greatly enhanced the success of his element's mission. Sergeant *Hill's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

9. By direction of the President, under the provision of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Marion S. Howell*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was promoted by deep compassion for his imprisoned fellow men-at-arms and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Sergeant *Howell*, senior radio operator for the ground force commander, landed in the objective with the command group of the raiding force. En route to his objective area, he came under automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he fearlessly continued his mission of establishing his command post position. Still under fire, he operated the air-ground net flawlessly, even though the traffic was greatly intensified by major changes in the plan. When the command post was threatened by enemy soldiers, he returned fire without loss of efficiency in his communications duties. His complete disregard for his personal safety and his flawless execution of duty under fire reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

10. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *Thomas W. Jaeger*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Immediately after debarking from the assault helicopter inside the compound, Captain *Jaeger* led his element to the east wall near the gate, firing his weapon into the guard billets and eliminating that serious threat. He then maneuvered to the gate tower, where the enemy soldiers made a desperate attempt to regain their position only to be rendered ineffective by Captain *Jaeger's* men. He then calmly and efficiently performed his mission of clearing the largest building of enemy personnel. Constantly exposed to heavy enemy fire, he began moving vigorously from position to position within the compound, clearing his sector of all enemy personnel. Captain *Jaeger's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

11. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *John Jakovenko*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. With contempt for danger, Sergeant *Jakovenko* exposed himself to enemy fire to place effective machinegun fire on the enemy and neutralize their automatic weapons positions. Sergeant *Jakovenko* performed in a heroic manner while under hostile fire. He provided covering fire to insure the safe withdrawal of other units throughout the raid. Sergeant *Jakovenko* fought valiantly and fearlessly until the mission was completed. Sergeant *Jakovenko's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

12. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Jack G. Joplin*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Joplin*, while engaged in the clearing of buildings and with complete disregard for his personal safety, engaged enemy soldiers at point-blank range with his .45 caliber pistol and secured the building which dominated the right flank of the compound. Sergeant *Joplin's* swift and courageous action contributed directly to the overall success of the mission. Sergeant *Joplin's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

13. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Daniel Jurich*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was promoted by a deep compassion for his imprisoned fellow men-at-arms and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Sergeant *Jurich*, under intense ground combat conditions, led his raid-group element in clearing enemy guard quarters with such a positive and aggressive action that his group accomplished its hazardous mission in significantly less time than anticipated. After neutralizing the guard quarters, Sergeant *Jurich*, completely disregarding his personal safety, exposed himself to enemy small arms fire in an effort to draw this fire and protect his fire team members. Sergeant *Jurich*, throughout this valiant action, displayed a professional calmness and leadership under fire that were both inspirational to his subordinates and

major factors in the successful accomplishment of his assigned mission. Sergeant *Jurich's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

14. By the direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant *Gary D. Keel*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was motivated by deep compassion for his imprisoned countrymen and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. As a member of the initial assault force, Sergeant *Keel* continuously exposed himself to small arms fire to accomplish his mission as a combat photographer for the force. During the withdrawal to the extraction landing zone, he again braved automatic weapons fire to provide covering fire for his element. His coolness under fire and personal bravery contributed directly to the overall success of the operation. Sergeant *Keel's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

15. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *David A. Lawhon, Jr.*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was promoted by deep compassion for his imprisoned fellow men-at-arms, and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Sergeant *Lawhon* displayed unusual courage and skill as he led his element in the initial assault on the objective. While engaged in a building-clearing operation, he unhesitatingly braved automatic weapons fire to eliminate potential threats to the mission. His swift and positive combat actions contributed directly to the overall success of the operation. Sergeant *Lawhon's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

16. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Master Sergeant *Joseph W. Lupyak*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam.



Sergeant *Lupyak*, while maneuvering his element, came under automatic weapons and small arms fire from the building complex. Sergeant *Lupyak*, with complete disregard for his personal safety, stood up and directed the machine gunners and grenadiers of his element in order to provide covering fire. He then assaulted the building, throwing a fragmentation grenade through the window. While moving around the building, he encountered several enemy soldiers. He eliminated them and continued to move into the building. Once inside, he encountered more armed enemy soldiers. With accurate fire he neutralized the enemy within the building. Sergeant *Lupyak* then received word from his platoon leader to pull back to the landing zone for extraction. His accurate automatic fire with his own weapon enabled his elements to withdraw safely. Sergeant *Lupyak's* conspicuous bravery and inspiring leadership under fire enabled him to complete successfully his mission with no friendly casualties. Sergeant *Lupyak's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

17. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Bill R. Martin*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Martin*, an M-60 machine gunner and forward air guide, came under enemy automatic weapons fire as his element approached a building complex. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he bravely exposed himself to the enemy fire and quickly neutralized the enemy position with a heavy volume of machinegun fire. As his element moved into the complex, Sergeant *Martin* once again came under automatic weapons and small arms fire. Without hesitating, he assaulted the enemy position and neutralized this threat to his element. He then delivered a withering volume of fire. Sergeant *Martin's* sense of duty and extraordinary heroism enabled his element to successfully complete its assigned mission. Sergeant *Martin's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

18. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Charles A. Masten*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Masten*, the senior Pathfinder, was given the mission of establishing the primary and alternate landing zones for the recovery helicopters. Upon debarking from the helicopter in which he was riding, Sergeant *Masten* came under enemy fire. Singlehanded, he assaulted the enemy's position and succeeded in driving the enemy from the objective area. After clearing the prison pumping station of enemy personnel, Sergeant *Masten* moved to set up

the landing zone. Realizing the importance of his mission, Sergeant *Masten*, with complete disregard for his personal safety, continued his work, exposing himself time and time again to enemy fire. Sergeant *Masten's* extraordinary heroism and determination contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. His daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

19. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *James W. McClam*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was motivated by a deep compassion for his imprisoned comrades and a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Captain *McClam* was selected to control the extraction of the raiding force and the released prisoners. While en route to his position, he came under fire from an enemy force. Establishing himself in his assigned sector, he performed as a rifleman until the extraction began. With utter disregard for his personal safety, he stood, fully exposed to enemy fire at the rear of the recovery helicopter, until all forces were accounted for. He was the last member of the force to leave the area. His thoroughness in accounting for raid-force members was a keystone of confidence for all members of the force. His calm and efficient performance of duty while under fire reflects great credit on him and the United States Army.

20. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Gregory T. McGuire*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After debarking from the helicopter in which he was riding, Sergeant *McGuire* came under small arms and automatic weapons fire. Sergeant *McGuire*, with complete disregard for his personal safety, exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to fire his M-79 grenade launcher. Continuing to the objective area, Sergeant *McGuire* moved forward to place a Claymore antipersonnel mine in position to protect the members of his element. He then delivered exceptionally accurate fire on an enemy position with his grenade launcher and assisted his element in halting the approaching enemy. His extraordinary heroism in the face of an armed enemy contributed greatly to the success of the mission. Sergeant *McGuire's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

21. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *Dan H. McKinney*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Immediately after debarking from the assault helicopter inside the prisoner-of-war compound, Captain *McKinney* led his element against the defending enemy force. He maneuvered his elements against the northwest guard tower, clearing it by rifle fire and grenades. He then fearlessly and efficiently cleared the northern portion of the compound, causing the enemy to flee. He displayed exceptional courage by exposing himself to possible counter-attacks while providing covering fire for his men as they searched the prison cell blocks. Captain *McKinney's* conscious disregard to his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

22. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *Kenneth E. McMullin*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After debarking from the assault helicopter, Sergeant *McMullin* moved to an exposed position and delivered automatic rifle fire on a fortified enemy position, eliminating an immediate threat that could hinder the search-and-rescue operation. He then fearlessly moved to the north corner of the prisoner interrogation building the better to protect the search team of his element. He cleared the area of the remaining enemy personnel permitting the safe completion of the search of all buildings and the withdrawal of the raiding force to the extraction point. Sergeant *McMullin's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

23. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant *Keith R. Medenski*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After insertion by helicopter into the enemy military prison compound, Sergeant *Medenski* immediately came face-to-face with an enemy force armed with automatic weapons. Firing his rifle, he cleared the immediate area of

armed enemy in order to secure a landing zone. He then exposed himself to intense enemy automatic fire to clear the enemy soldiers from between himself and another unit in the area. Fighting in a cool and fearless manner, he cleared a route of withdrawal for his comrades and secured a landing zone for extraction. Sergeant *Medenski's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

24. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *Walter L. Miller*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was promoted by deep compassion for his imprisoned fellow men-at-arms and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Sergeant *Miller*, senior radio operator for the alternate ground force commander, debarked from the assault aircraft and was immediately taken under enemy automatic weapons fire. Realizing that the group had landed in an area approximately 400 meters south of the objective and that it was imperative that the group rejoin the main body of the raiding force, he with complete disregard for his life exposed himself to enemy fire in order to assist in marking an extraction landing zone. His heroic actions under fire made it possible for a helicopter to land to extract the group without a casualty, thus enabling the group to move swiftly to rejoin the main force. His unselfishness and valiant actions reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

25. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Master Sergeant *Billy K. Moore*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Immediately after the helicopter in which he was riding crash-landed inside the prison compound, Sergeant *Moore* delivered devastating automatic weapons fire on the southwest guard tower, thus eliminating its threat. Then, with great risk to his life, he moved to the south wall and continued to place fire on the enemy target until it was completely cleared. Sergeant *Moore* then moved unprotected with a demolition charge to a preselected position to blow an escape hole in the prison wall for evacuation. Upon completion of this task, he volunteered to remain behind to activate the prepared demolitions charge in the crash-landed helicopter in order to destroy it. His fearless personal conduct, his thorough execution of his assigned tasks, and his calm and efficient manner of performance were exceptional during the critical assault period. Sergeant *Moore's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

26. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Joseph M. Murray*, \_\_\_\_\_, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Murray* was assigned the specific mission of clearing key buildings outside the prison compound. Upon debarking from the assault aircraft in which he was riding, he came under fire from an enemy force armed with automatic weapons. He returned fire on the enemy's position, neutralizing it. Upon reaching his objective, he came under fire from a building complex. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he assaulted the guard billets, throwing a grenade through a window. While doing so, he was wounded in the right leg. Sergeant *Murray's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

27. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *Eric J. Nelson*, \_\_\_\_\_, Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Nelson*, by swift action and personal example, led his element in a direct assault on the primary guard quarters, clearing the building and neutralizing that threat to the operation. He then exposed himself repeatedly to enemy small arms fire in order to cover the withdrawal of his element to the extraction landing zone. His coolness under fire, courage, and leadership contributed directly to the successful completion of the mission. Sergeant *Nelson's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

28. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *Robert F. Nelson*, \_\_\_\_\_, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Nelson*, by swift action and personal example, led his element in a direct assault on the primary guard quarters, clearing the building and neutralizing that threat to the operation. He then exposed himself repeatedly to enemy small arms fire in order to cover the withdrawal of his element to the extraction landing zone. His coolness under fire, courage, and leadership contributed directly to the successful completion of the mission. Sergeant *Nelson's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an

armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

29. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *David S. Nickerson*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was promoted by deep compassion for his imprisoned countrymen and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Sergeant *Nickerson*, the Army component commander's FM radio operator, debarked from the assault aircraft with the support element and was immediately taken under enemy automatic weapons fire. Realizing that the force had landed on the wrong landing zone and knowing that it was imperative that his element rejoin the main body of the raiding force, he fearlessly, with complete disregard for his life, exposed himself to enemy fire in order to personally mark the landing zone with a hand-held strobe light. His heroic action facilitated the extraction of the force without a casualty, enabling it to move swiftly to rejoin the main force. Sergeant *Nickerson's* courageous performance under fire reflects great credit on him and the United States Army.

30. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for Gallantry in action is awarded to:

First Lieutenant *George W. Petrie*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After crash-landing in the assault helicopter inside the prison compound, Lieutenant *Petrie* led his element in a search-and-clear action across the open and exposed portion of the compound courtyard to the main gate and gate tower to engage entrenched enemy personnel. Lieutenant *Petrie*, in the face of automatic weapons fire, personally charged the gate tower, clearing it with rifle fire and grenades. Then, with complete disregard for his life, he maneuvered to an exposed position in order to deliver covering fire for the remainder of the assault group. At this time Lieutenant *Petrie* was confronted with a counterattack, and, from this critical position, he placed accurate fire on the advancing enemy, repulsed the attack, and caused the enemy to flee. The enemy counterattacked a second time, and in a calm and efficient manner Lieutenant *Petrie* directed his element against the enemy and quickly eliminated this recurring threat. Lieutenant *Petrie* withdrew to the extraction point under fire, only after the compound search was completed and the order to withdraw was given. Lieutenant *Petrie's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

31. By direction of the President, under the provision of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for Gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Noe Quezada*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Quezada's* specific mission was to clear key buildings immediately outside the prison compound. As he debarked from the assault aircraft, several bursts of automatic weapons fire were received from the north. He immediately returned fire, instantly neutralizing the enemy position. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he continued to assault his objective. After breaching the first hedgerow, he again received small arms fire from the vicinity of his objective. He returned the fire and continued to assault his objective. After the first building was cleared, he established a rear security guard post, protecting his element's rear flank. His conspicuous gallantry and composure under fire were major assets in the accomplishment of the element's mission. Sergeant *Quezada's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

32. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Lorenzo O. Robbins*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After debarking from the assault helicopter, Sergeant *Robbins*, with complete disregard for his life, moved across a completely exposed area under the threat of automatic weapons fire from the east and northwest guard towers in order to reach his initial objective. He calmly and deliberately neutralized a large detention building. Singlehanded, he then eliminated the major enemy threat posed by the northwest guard tower. He then assisted in searching and clearing operations that were taking place in an adjacent area. Sergeant *Robbins'* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

33. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *John E. Rodriguez*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Rodriguez* fought valiantly, with complete disregard for his life,

while neutralizing an armed enemy within a trench line. He again exposed himself to small arms fire to distract the enemy and protect fellow members of his element. He then secured the north-south road, thereby insuring a route of withdrawal for other elements. He then secured the east side of the landing zone that was used by the ground force for extraction. Sergeant *Rodriguez's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

34. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant *Franklin D. Roe*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Roe* displayed extraordinary leadership and courage while leading his element in clearing enemy forces from his assigned area. While moving from building to building, he was constantly exposed to automatic weapons fire. On several occasions he was confronted by the enemy at close range. Through his professional leadership and aggressive actions in the objective area he contributed immeasurably to the successful accomplishment of the Support Group mission without the loss of a single life. Sergeant *Roe's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

35. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *Glenn R. Rouse*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was promoted by deep compassion for his imprisoned fellow men-at-arms and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Captain *Rouse* courageously led his element in the vital initial combat assault on the objective. By personal bravery, swift action, and positive leadership, he directed the clearing of a trench system, encompassing the target area, which threatened the success of the overall mission. His calmness under automatic weapons fire, together with his aggressive leadership, proved to be an inspiration to all and ensured the accomplishment of the mission without loss of life to friendly forces. Captain *Rouse's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.



36. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Master Sergeant *Herman Spencer*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Spencer*, while maneuvering his element toward the building complex outside the prison compound, came under automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he continuously exposed himself to direct the fire of his maneuvering element while placing accurate fire on the enemy position. As he entered the building complex, Sergeant *Spencer* once again came under automatic weapons and small arms fire. Again, with total disregard for his own personal safety, he assaulted and destroyed these enemy positions. While another member of his element was maneuvering to clear his assigned building, Sergeant *Spencer* observed enemy forces moving from his blind side. Sergeant *Spencer* immediately exposed himself to attract their attention and then unhesitatingly engaged them. Sergeant *Spencer's* sense of duty and display of extraordinary heroism insured the complete success of his element's mission. Sergeant *Spencer's* conscious disregard for his own safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

37. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant *Patrick St Clair*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *St Clair* was the first man to debark from a helicopter which crash-landed inside the prison compound. Completely disregarding his personal safety, he moved directly to an exposed area and immediately began placing a heavy volume of automatic rifle fire on the fortified northwest guard tower of the prison. He then maneuvered to his next objective where, he surprised a number of enemy soldiers. Without hesitation, he courageously attacked the soldiers, forcing them to abandon their fortified positions and retreat into the covering fire of a supporting element of the raiding force. He then calmly and deliberately searched and cleared his assigned area of responsibility. Sergeant *St Clair's* courageous actions contributed significantly to the successful execution of the mission. His extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

38. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Ronnie Strahan*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a

member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Strahan* was assigned the mission of destroying a powerline tower and establishing the primary and alternate landing zones for the recovery helicopters. He came under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire while en route to the tower. Realizing it was imperative that the tower be destroyed to enable the recovery helicopters to land, he assaulted and neutralized the enemy position. After destroying the tower with demolitions, he again came under fire while he was establishing the primary landing zone. Disregarding the risk to his life, he continued with his mission until the two landing zones were prepared. His extraordinary heroism and determination contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant *Strahan's* disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

39. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Salvador M. Suarez*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Suarez* displayed outstanding professional competence, personal courage, and technical skill under extremely hazardous combat conditions in the objective area. Although responsible for maintaining effective command and control communications, he aggressively participated in the execution of his ground element's clearing mission. His swift and positive combat actions were accomplished in a calm and professional manner and made a significant contribution to the successful accomplishment of the mission without the loss of a single life. Sergeant *Suarez's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

40. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Donald E. Taapken*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was promoted by deep compassion for his imprisoned fellow men-at-arms, and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. On arrival in the target area Sergeant *Taapken*, without regard for his personal safety, exposed himself to continuous hostile enemy fire to move to a position where he could effectively employ his M-79 grenade launcher. This action protected the other members of his platoon while they were involved in house-clearing actions. He repeatedly distinguished himself by highly valorous actions in eliminating enemy resistance during the house-clearing operations.

His swift and positive combat actions, together with his courageous execution of his assignment, insured successful completion of the mission without the loss of a single life. Sergeant *Taapken's* **daring skill, extraordinary heroism** against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

41. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *William L. Tapley*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. On arrival in the objective area, Sergeant *Tapley* immediately assaulted the main gate, neutralizing and clearing the gate area of resistance. He remained at that position, completely exposed to enemy fire, in order to observe the area outside the compound. A short time later, as his element leader was attempting to break into a building in their sector, Sergeant *Tapley* observed a small enemy force rounding a building to their rear and moving rapidly to their location. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he fearlessly engaged the enemy and rendered it ineffective with automatic weapons fire. Still exposed to enemy resistance, he began moving from position to position within the compound clearing his sector of responsibility of all enemy personnel. Sergeant *Tapley's* **daring skill, extraordinary heroism** against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

42. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant *Marshall A. Thomas*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Thomas* was inserted into the enemy compound where he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy automatic weapons fire. Fighting valiantly while surrounded in a hostile environment, he cleared his assigned area of enemy forces and secured the essential withdrawal landing zone. He again exposed himself to enemy automatic weapons fire to clear a trench between himself and the unit forward of his position. Fighting in a cool and fearless manner, he was able to clear a route of withdrawal for the headquarters element. Sergeant *Thomas's* **conscious disregard for his own personal safety, extraordinary heroism** against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

43. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *Daniel D. Turner*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member

of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Captain *Turner*, leader of the command group, displayed outstanding leadership, personal courage, and presence of mind while leading the assault of his group in the target area. Although his elements had gone into the attack following original orders he noted that one of the assault helicopters had not landed as planned. Realizing that immediate action was required to institute an alternate plan, he fearlessly exposed himself to the enemy small arms fire as he moved repeatedly to positions where he could redirect the deployment of his elements. During this period he was repeatedly fired upon by the enemy with automatic and small arms fire. He returned accurate fire upon these enemy positions, neutralizing them sufficiently to continue his mission. When the delayed raiding force group landed, he once again exposed himself to fire in order to maintain the same sure, professional control over his unit and to place safely the delayed element into position. Captain *Turner's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

44. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Richard W. Valentine*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. As a member of the initial assault force, Sergeant *Valentine*, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved from building to building, clearing each and thus eliminating a dangerous threat to the successful accomplishment of the mission. He again exposed himself to automatic weapons fire to secure the southern portion of the landing zone. His courage and extreme coolness under fire contributed directly to the overall success of the operation. Sergeant *Valentine's* extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

45. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *Udo H. Walther*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action as Commander of the Support Group of an all-volunteer joint United States Army and Air Force raiding force on 21 November 1970 and displayed outstanding leadership, personal courage, and presence of mind while leading his group in a heliborne assault mission to rescue and extract United States military personnel held prisoners of war at Son Tay prison, deep inside the sovereign territory of North Vietnam. Upon reaching his first objective, Captain *Walther* realized his force had been landed in an area other than, but resembling, the target area. At this time the force was engaged by an enemy force armed with AK-47 rifles. Captain *Walther* unhesitatingly led his element into the compound, subduing this force with

devastating and accurate fire. Upon being recalled to the landing zone, Captain *Walther* directed and participated in an orderly withdrawal under fire. His heroic actions and his disregard for his own personal safety were an inspiration to his men and officers. He completed an orderly extraction and was inserted into the target landing zone as originally planned. His masterful control of the Support Group was exemplary. His keen mind and his alertness to the changing situation allowed him to enter the target area and link up with and pass through the group which had earlier taken over his assigned area. His fearless personal conduct, his efficient and accurate executions of combat tasks, and his calm manner of performance under fire during the critical extraction phase reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

46. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Donald R. Wingrove*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After debarking from the assault helicopter inside the compound, Sergeant *Wingrove* moved to an exposed position in the center of the compound in order to place covering fire on the enemy soldiers located immediately outside the east gate area. He held this position, even though he was constantly faced with the danger of being struck by enemy automatic weapons fire from the east guard tower. His bravery in the face of this grave threat to his life was an inspiration to the other element members. Continuing his assigned mission with deliberation and thoroughness, he moved to assist in searching and clearing a large cell-block area. Sergeant *Wingrove's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

47. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *Lawrence Young*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Young*, after debarking from the assault aircraft, immediately came under fire from an enemy force armed with automatic weapons. He immediately returned fire, helping to suppress the enemy's fire, and continued to his objective. After moving a short distance, he came under heavy fire from a building complex. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he assaulted and neutralized the enemy position. Sergeant *Young's* compassion for his fellow men and his fearless attitude in combat enabled his element to successfully complete its mission. Sergeant *Young's* daring skill, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

**III--SILVER STAR. 1.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Earl Bleacher*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. Sergeant *Bleacher* led his fire element in the initial combat assault on the objective. Fighting valiantly, with disregard for his own safety, he continually exposed himself to hostile automatic weapons fire. On several occasions, Sergeant *Bleacher* was confronted by armed enemy personnel while attempting to secure the platoon's withdrawal route. Through application of swift and positive action, he eliminated the threats and ensured the success of his element's mission accomplishment without the loss of a single life. Sergeant *Bleacher's* extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

**2.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *Paul F. Poole*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. This valiant effort was promoted by deep compassion for his imprisoned countrymen and by a strong sense of military duty and national pride. Sergeant *Poole*, the radio operator for the ground force commander, with the mission of maintaining radio communication for the entire force, came under automatic weapons fire while en route from the assault helicopter to his objective. With complete disregard for personal safety, he exposed himself to enemy fire repeatedly in order that he might establish and maintain an effective command post. Shortly after the main element arrived at the command post, he delivered accurate rifle fire to eliminate a threat posed by the intrusion of an armed enemy soldier. Sergeant *Poole's* courageous performance of duty reflects great credit on him and the United States Army.

**IV--SILVER STAR.** By direction of the President under the provision of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Master Sergeant *Galen C. Kittleson*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 November 1970 as a member of an all-volunteer joint US Army and Air Force raiding force in the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed heliborne assault mission to rescue United States military personnel held as prisoners of war at Son Tay prison in North Vietnam. After debarking from the crash-landed assault helicopter inside the prison compound, Sergeant *Kittleson* fearlessly maneuvered into his preplanned position to provide covering fire for his advancing element, fully realizing that, in doing so, he was completely exposed to automatic weapons fire from both

the east and the northwest guard towers. As the initial phase of the assault was accomplished, Sergeant *Kittleson* then took command of his subelement; courageously, and with total disregard for his life, maneuvered into the north area of the compound; and, using accurate and aggressive rifle fire and movement, immediately neutralized his objectives. Even though he was aware of the possibility of a counterattack by North Vietnamese forces, Sergeant *Kittleson* ignored this fact and calmly and deliberately began to search and clear the suspected prisoner-maximum-security area. Master Sergeant *Kittleson's* conscious disregard for his personal safety, extraordinary heroism against an armed hostile force, and extreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

Distribution:

By the Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND,  
*General, United States Army,*  
*Chief of Staff.*

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,  
*Major General, United States Army,*  
*The Adjutant General.*

Distribution:

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