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Silver Star Award Citation (First Oak Leaf Cluster)

Captain Michael Christy, US Army

For gallantry in action:

Captain Michael B. Christy, Infantry, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) distinguished himself by gallantry in action against main force elements of the North Vietnamese Army while participating in search and clear operations in Southeast Asia during the period 21 June 1970 to 24 June 1970. In a series of violent contacts over a three day period, Captain Christy continually exposed himself to direct and indirect hostile fires in exercising command of his rifle company. Ignoring superficial facial wounds which temporarily blinded him, he assisted his radio operator in establishing contact with his battalion headquarters and supporting artillery battery--contacts which were essential for the survival of the company. When advancing on well entrenched enemy forces he personally rallied his riflemen and assaulted the hostiles in their bunkers. Through practiced application of fire and maneuver he and his men systematically and ruthlessly eliminated several enemy soldiers while minimizing friendly casualties. Using techniques that he personally pioneered in establishing unmanned ambushes, the company accounted for several enemy kills and the capture of documents containing information which compromised enemy cryptologic capabilities. Throughout this hectic period his personal courage, positive leadership, and application of professional skills provided the stimuli by which his company violently confronted and defeated a well led and armed enemy force. Captain Christy's gallant actions and total disregard for his personal safety reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army