

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96610

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Silver Star Medal to

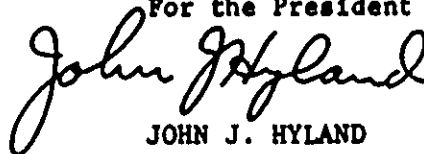
Captain Ronald Dudley RAY
United States Marine Corps

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as an advisor to the Third Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps in Operation PADDINGTON, a search and destroy operation in Phuoc Tuy Province, Republic of Vietnam on 12 July 1967. As search and destroy operations were being initiated, the Third Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps received heavy fire from well concealed enemy emplacements. Captain RAY, with his radioman and Vietnamese counterpart at the point of contact, although hampered by dense undergrowth, requested that a helicopter in the area conduct visual reconnaissance to assist in evaluating the situation. Although the helicopter was shot down, Captain RAY continued to move forward and skillfully directed air strikes to suppress enemy fire. By noon, the enemy force, estimated to be a reinforced Battalion, had succeeded in surrounding the two companies that Captain RAY was accompanying and were concentrating heavy mortar and recoilless rifle fire on Captain RAY's position. With complete disregard for his own life and safety, Captain RAY heroically remained in his exposed position, directed air strikes against the enemy force and relayed information to the Battalion advisor. The numerically superior Viet Cong force launched six unsuccessful assaults against the two Vietnamese Marine companies. The final assault was so close that Captain RAY requested that supporting fires be brought to bear on his own position. Captain RAY's counterpart, by utilizing the close artillery fire was able to effect a short withdrawal to regroup his forces. During the reorganization, Captain RAY, still under enemy fire, continued to direct air strikes on the attacking insurgent forces. He successfully directed an air strike to within 50 meters of his own position, which was a major factor in the success of a counterattack by the two Vietnamese Marine companies which silenced the enemy fire. Captain RAY's skillful tactical employment of air strikes contributed greatly to the success of the action which resulted in numerous Viet Cong killed or wounded and large amounts of insurgent ammunition and weapons confiscated. His devotion to duty and courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President



JOHN J. HYLAND
Admiral, U. S. Navy

Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet