

**INFORMATION RELEASABLE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT****NAME:**

Oliver L. North

**BRANCH OF SERVICE AND SERIAL/SERVICE NUMBER(S):**

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve/1992841 &amp; U.S. Marine Corps/0106152

**DATES OF SERVICE:**

Reserve: 12/29/1961 - 06/25/1963

Active: 06/05/1968 - 04/30/1988

**DUTY STATUS:**

Retired

**RANK/GRADE:**

LTCOL

**SALARY:**

N/A

**SOURCE OF COMMISSION:**

Service Academy

**PROMOTION SEQUENCE NUMBER:**

N/A

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS:**

See Attached

**MILITARY EDUCATION:**

See Attached

**DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:**

See Attached

**TRANSCRIPT OF COURT-MARTIAL TRIAL:**

Not on File

**PHOTOGRAPH:**

N/A

**PLACE OF ENTRY:**

Annapolis, MD

**PLACE OF SEPARATION:**

Arlington, VA

**FOR DECEASED VETERAN ONLY****PLACE OF BIRTH**

N/A

**DATE OF DEATH**

N/A

**LOCATION OF DEATH**

N/A

**PLACE OF BURIAL**

N/A

NOTE: N/A denotes information is not available in the veteran's records

A14

RECORDS OF SERVICE

ORGANIZATION	DATE	GRADE	DUTY STATION	REMARKS	REMARKS	REMARKS	SIGNATURE OF MARKING OFFICER
OSO, Syracuse, N.Y.	29 Dec 61	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Other Details Army Air Corps (USA) AF	DEC 29 1961	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Other Details Army Air Corps (USA) AF	23 JUL 62	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Other Details Army Air Corps (USA) AF	1 SEP 62	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Other Details Army Air Corps (USA) AF	20 JUN 63	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ho 4thMCRRD PHILA	20 Jun 63	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF DUTY ASSIGNMENTS

PERIOD		UNIT OR ORGANIZATION	PRIMARY DUTIES	ADDITIONAL DUTIES
FROM	TO			
18 Jun 68	11 Nov 68	TBS, MCB, QUANT		
30 Jun 68	690821	Co A, 1st Bn, 3d Mar, 3d Mar Div (Rein) FMF		
690822	691129	Hq Co, Hq Bn, 3d Mar Div (Rein) FMF		
691129	720825	H&S Co, H&S Bn, TBS, MCB, QUANT		
	730325	CO		
	730203	A Co, Hq Bn, MCB Quantico Va 22131		
731216	740215	Sub Unit #1, BLT 3/4 3d Mar Div		
740219	740730	H&S Co, BLT 3/4 3d Mar Div (Rein)		
740214	REDESIGNATED AS H&S CO			
4DBN 4TH MAR	DIV (Rein)			
FMF PRO DAN BRANTICO	VA			
AUTH CG	D. MAR			
740731	Sub Unit #1, BLT 3/4 3d Mar Div			
740905	741109	H&S Co, 3d M Bn, 3d Mar Div		
741110	741210	A Co, 1st Bn 4th Mar, 3d Mar		
750215		Co B Hq Bn HQMC HH-ARD VA 22214		

NAME: NORTH (Last) Oliver (First) Laurence (Middle) 0106153

3093 CONTINUED ON SUPPLEMENTAL PAGE

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD

(1070)

UNIT/ORGANIZATION	PRIMARY DUTY	REMARKS
CoB, HqBn, HQMC, HH, Arlva RUC 54026 MCC 010 008	[REDACTED]	This page opened 760524 [REDACTED]
HQSVC0 3DBN 8THMAR 2DMARDIV (REIN) FMC CAMLEN RUC 12231 MCC 122	[REDACTED]	780601 TR TO 2ndMARDIV 780603 JD FOR DU 790104 to 790620 IAD "K" Company this En RUC 12237 MCC 122
COMPLETED ANNUAL LEADERSHIP INSTRUCTION THIS DATE... 790704 TO 8DBN 8THMAR 2DMARDIV FMC CAMLEN NO 894 REDISIGNATED TO BN ADMIN THIS DATE RUC 12230 MCC 122	[REDACTED]	800711 TR TO QUANTICO, VA
MARCORADMINDET, NETC NEWPORT, RI 02840 RUC 53103 MCC J56 K92	[REDACTED]	800808 JD FOR DU STUD NWC 810315 TO 810317 ASG TAD NONEXCESS TO WASHDC 810318 TO 810319 ASG TAD NONEXCESS TO WASHDC 810630 TR TO CMC HQMC WASHDC (MCC 010) FOR DU
COB HOBN HQMC HH ARLVA 22214 RUC 54026 MCC 010 053	[REDACTED]	810705 TO 810802 880501 RELACDU/TR TO RET LIST

EMBOSSED PLATE IMPRESSION

\* DENOTE LATENT ENTRY

NORTH

Oliver

L

[REDACTED]

NAME (Last)

(First)

(Middle)

SSN

354

SERVICE SCHOOLS, TECHNICAL TRAINING AND MILITARY CORRESPONDENCE COURSES COMPLETED					
SCHOOL ATTENDED AND LOCATION	COURSE	NO. WEEKS	YEAR COMPLETED	INCOMPLETE	UNIT STAFF NO.
TBS MGR. QUANT Ft. Benning, Georgia	The Basic School (RMG)	21	1968		
	Airborne Course (AGS)	3	1967		
ISMC PHIBWARSCOL QUANT, VA NUCWENS, NEDCC, QUANTICO VA.	AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE (RGP)	25	1973		
NWC NEWPORT, RI 02840	NUCWENSEMPLERS 1-74 (EGL) COMMAND AND STAFF (RGB)	06 44	1973 06/81		

ACADEMIC EDUCATION COURSES, TESTS AND CORRESPONDENCE COURSES COMPLETED				
DATE	TITLE OF COURSE OR TEST	SCHOOL AND LOCATION	CREDIT	GRADE
1 Sep 65	Survival Training	Stead AFB, Nevada		91

14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number weeks, and month and year completed)  
 The Basic School 21 wks 1968; Airborne Crs 03 wks 1967; Amphibious Warfare School 25 wks 1973; Nuclear Weapons Employment Crs 06 wks 1973; Command and Staff College 44 wks Jun 1981; Survival Training Sep 1965.

13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (All methods of service)

Silver Star Medal; Bronze Star Medal w/Combat "V"; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Purple Heart Medal w/Gold Star; Meritorious Service Medal; Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat "V" and 1 Star; Navy Achievement Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Navy Unit Commendation; Meritorious Unit Commendation w/1 Star; National Defense (Cont. in BIX #18)

14. REMARKS

Bik #13 Cont; Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal w/1 Silver Star; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon w/1 Star; RVN MJC Gallantry Cross Color w/Palm & Frame; RVN Cross of Gallantry w/Silver Star; RVN Campaign Medal w/Device (60-7); Basic Parachutist Insignia; Expert Rifle Qualification Badge 3rd Award; Expert Pistol Qualification Badge 5th Award.



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B8

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL** to

**SECOND LIEUTENANT OLIVER L. NORTH**

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For heroic achievement in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as a Platoon Commander with Company K, Third Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division. On 22 February 1969, Second Lieutenant North was aboard the lead tank directing his platoon's reconnaissance operations in the vicinity of Con Thien in Quang Tri Province when his patrol came under intense automatic weapons and machine gun fire and hand grenade attack from a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force well entrenched in the densely-wooded area. Reacting instantly, he began delivering a heavy volume of return fire while directing his men and the vehicles out of the hazardous area and into open terrain. Rapidly assessing the situation when he observed the enemy attempting to envelope and isolate his patrol, Second Lieutenant North completely disregarded his own safety as he boldly remained in his dangerously exposed position on top of the tank to deploy his men and establish a defensive perimeter. When struck by the vehicle's revolving turret and thrown to the ground, he resolutely refused medical attention and ignored his own painful injuries as he skillfully directed the actions of the Marines. Realizing that radio communication was imperative, Second Lieutenant North fearlessly moved across the fire-swept terrain, climbed aboard the tank, and remained oblivious to the North Vietnamese rounds impacting around him as he retrieved the radio from atop the tank and directed his radio operator to establish contact with supporting aircraft. Obtaining an M-79 grenade launcher, he delivered highly accurate fire and directed the fire of his men and the armored vehicles against the hostile positions with such effectiveness that seven enemy soldiers were killed and the hostile fire silenced. After ensuring that all the casualties were cared for and every man in his patrol accounted for, he then moved the Marines out of the dangerous area and returned to his base. Second Lieutenant North's courage, superb leadership and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger inspired all who observed him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

FOR THE PRESIDENT

H. W. BUSE, JR.  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

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The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the  
NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL to

CAPTAIN OLIVER L. NORTH

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS


for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For meritorious service while serving with the Third Marine Division, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam, from 28 November 1968 to 26 November 1969. Throughout this period, Captain North, then a First Lieutenant, performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. Initially assigned as a Platoon Commander with Company K, Third Battalion, Third Marines, he molded his men into an aggressive fighting unit and provided his company with consistently outstanding combat support. Participating in numerous major combat operations, including Operations Taylor Common, Maina Cruz, and Idahn Canyon, he repeatedly distinguished himself by his courage and professionalism under fire as he led his platoon in pursuit of hostile forces. In addition, Captain North planned and supervised the execution of more than seventy day and night ambushes and devised tactical innovations which resulted in heavy enemy casualties. Subsequently, reassigned as Liaison Officer with the G-3 Operations Section, Captain North ably coordinated the preparation and movement of subordinate units in the final phases of the Division's redeployment from the Republic of Vietnam to Okinawa. As a result of his diligent and resourceful efforts, the operational effectiveness of his command was greatly enhanced. By his leadership, superb professionalism, and steadfast devotion to duty, Captain North earned the respect and admiration of all who served with him and the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The Command Distinguishing Device is authorized.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

  
LOUIS H. WILSON  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC





29

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the  
NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL to

CAPTAIN OLIVER L. NORTH

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For meritorious service while serving with the Third Marine Division, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam, from 28 November 1968 to 26 November 1969. Throughout this period, Captain North, then a First Lieutenant, performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. Initially assigned as a Platoon Commander with Company K, Third Battalion, Third Marines, he molded his men into an aggressive fighting unit and provided his company with consistently outstanding combat support. Participating in numerous major combat operations, including Operations Taylor Common, Maine Craig, and Idaho Canyon, he repeatedly distinguished himself by his courage and professionalism under fire as he led his platoon in pursuit of hostile forces. In addition, Captain North planned and supervised the execution of more than seventy day and night ambushes and devised tactical innovations which resulted in heavy enemy casualties. Subsequently, reassigned as Liaison Officer with the G-3 Operations Section, Captain North ably coordinated the preparation and movement of subordinate units in the final phases of the Division's redeployment from the Republic of Vietnam to Okinawa. As a result of his diligent and resourceful efforts, the operational effectiveness of his command was greatly enhanced. By his leadership, superb professionalism, and steadfast devotion to duty, Captain North earned the respect and admiration of all who served with him and upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized

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FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

LOUIS H. WILSON

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC



The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting The  
**NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL** to

**CAPTAIN OLIVER L. NORTH**

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving with the Northern Training Area, Third Marine Division at Okinawa, Japan, from 1 April to 20 June 1974. Assigned as Officer in Charge of the Division Schools, Captain North was tasked to develop a training program to hone the infantry skills of battalions returning from deployment. Given but general guidance as to the types of skills desired and the duration of the intended program, he drew upon his knowledge of infantry techniques and almost singlehandedly developed and implemented a comprehensive program. Carefully surveying the terrain, he laid out land navigation and rappelling courses to make maximum use of available space and special terrain features. After preparing detailed lesson plans, Captain North submitted the proposed training package, which was approved virtually without change. Subsequently, his tireless efforts were rewarded when the ~~initial class~~, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, endorsed the program as outstanding in every respect. In this challenging assignment, Captain North materially enhanced the combat readiness and high training levels attained by the Division. Captain North's outstanding professional ability, untiring determination, and steadfast devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps, and the United States Naval Service."

**FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.**

  
LOUIS H. WILSON

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

Form 100-1

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Q MICHAEL SC CLM 3/29/50



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:  
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
HAS AWARDED

## THE DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TO  
MAJOR OLIVER J. NORTH, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
FOR  
EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE  
FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

BY MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON



*Joseph P. Kamp*

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES	
ROUTE S C P	DATE 28 JAN 1952



Approved & Sent

Q WILSON BE CLERK 2017

1992

Q

TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE

**Defense Meritorious Service Medal**

TO

MAJOR OLIVER L. NORTH  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Major Oliver L. North, United States Marine Corps, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious achievement as a member of a White House group charged with planning and coordinating the sale of the Air Defense Enhancement package to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from September 1981 through October 1982. Demonstrating superior in-depth knowledge of complex geo-political issues and expertise in Allied and Soviet Bloc weapons systems and communications procedures, Major North quickly became a critically important member of the interagency team that developed and executed the President's concept for improving United States national security interests. He provided lucid, concise, and technically sound presentations and clearly articulated issue papers, speech material, and briefings used by officials up to and including the President of the United States. Major North was highly instrumental in securing Congressional approval of the proposal to improve Saudi air defense capabilities and the ability of the United States to project forces into this critical area. The distinctive accomplishments of Major North reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Marine Corps and the Department of Defense.

E70



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

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The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting  
the MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL to

MAJOR OLIVER L. NORTH  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

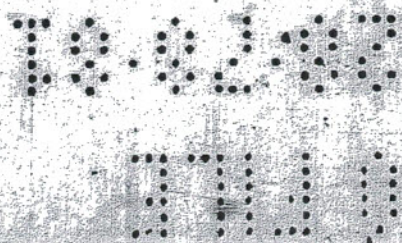
For service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For outstanding meritorious service as Manpower Policy Analyst with the Unit Deployment Program at Headquarters, Marine Corps from December 1974 through May 1978. During this period, Major (then Captain) North was tasked with the responsibility for developing the long range unit deployment implementation plan which commenced on October 1, 1977. Maintaining a rigorous and exhausting work schedule, he applied sound managerial techniques to ensure that the Unit Deployment Plan was tactically sound and administratively supportable. Successful implementation of the plan was, in a large measure, due to Major North's perceptive analysis and in-depth briefings for the Commandant, Headquarters Staff, and principal Fleet Marine Force Commanders. He effected essential liaison with the extra-service agencies and was personally responsible for gaining Navy support that was imperative to execution. In addition, Captain North made a unique and lasting contribution to the operational effectiveness of Marine Corps tactical units. By his exemplary achievements, personal ability, and selfless devotion to duty, Captain North reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

*W. Graham Curtis*  
Secretary of the Navy



6. - 81  
EIT

The Secretary of the Navy takes pride in presenting the  
LEGION OF MERIT TO

CAPTAIN OLIVER L. NORTH

United States Marine Corps

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"Captain Oliver L. North, United States Marine Corps, distinguished himself by meritorious achievement during his involvement with the Unit Deployment Program at Headquarters, Marine Corps during the period December 1974 through May 1978. During that period Captain North was tasked with the responsibility for developing the long range unit deployment implementation plan which commenced on October 1, 1977. Maintaining a rigorous and exhausting work schedule, he applied sound management techniques to ensure that the Unit Deployment Plan was tactically sound and administratively supportable. Successful implementation of the plan was, in a large measure, due to his perceptive analysis and in-depth briefings for the Commandant, Headquarters Staff, and principal Fleet Marine Force Commanders. The determination, initiative, resourcefulness and professional knowledge of Captain North were taxed to the maximum in leading the various Marine Corps and Departmental staff agencies to agreement on the many controversial issues that had to be resolved. In this regard, he effected essential liaison with the extra-service agencies and was personally responsible for gaining Navy support that was imperative to execution. Captain North has made a unique and lasting contribution to the operational effectiveness of Marine Corps tactical units. Through his part in the development of the Unit Rotation Plan, it is expected that full implementation of the six-phased plan will result in an annual savings of more than 14,000 permanent change of station moves and 13 million dollars in permanent change of station funds. By his exemplary achievements, personal ability and devotion to duty, Captain North has reflected great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."



D13

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the  
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL to

CAPTAIN OLIVER L. NORTH

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving with the Northern Training Area, Third Marine Division at Okinawa, Japan, from 1 April to 20 June 1974. Assigned as Officer in Charge of the Division Schools, Captain North was tasked to develop a training program to hone the infantry skills of battalions returning from deployment. Given but general guidance as to the types of skills desired and the duration of the intended program, he drew upon his knowledge of infantry techniques and almost singlehandedly developed and implemented a comprehensive program. Carefully surveying the terrain, he laid out land navigation and rappelling courses to make maximum use of available space and special terrain features. After preparing detailed lesson plans, Captain North submitted the proposed training package, which was approved virtually without change. Subsequently, his tireless efforts were rewarded when the initial class, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, endorsed the program as outstanding in every respect. In this challenging assignment, Captain North materially enhanced the combat readiness and high training levels attained by the Division. Captain North's outstanding professional ability, untiring determination, and steadfast devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps, and the United States Naval Service."

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

LOUIS H. WILSON

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

Wanda Matthews 3-7-82



The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting a Gold Star  
In Lieu of the ~~UNITED STATES~~ Navy Commendation Medal to

THIRD

MAJOR OLIVER L. NORTH

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for services as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service while serving as Operations Officer, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, Amphibious from June 1978 to July 1980. Throughout a demanding period of high operational intensity, Major NORTH performed his varied duties with uncommon foresight and a seldom surpassed degree of professional competence. Spearheading the predeployment training preparation and planning, he twice ensured that the Battalion was operationally prepared to assume the Landing Force 31st Fleet commitment. As the Battalion Landing Team Operations Officer he was intimately involved in the planning and execution of eleven major amphibious landing exercises and three training anchorages. His tactical abilities and attention to detail were highlighted on DAWN PARTOL '79 and DAWN PARTOL '80, which were multi-national exercises involving amphibious landings in Turkey and Sardinia. During the two deployments, no less than eight NATO Allies operated alongside and participated in cross training exercises with Battalion Landing Team 3/8. Major NORTH's thorough planning, superb tactical knowledge, and sincere appreciation for the operational capabilities of allied forces, lead the Battalion Landing Team in a complex series of tactical evaluations and cross training between the United States and our NATO allies. Major NORTH's exceptional performance of duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

For the Secretary of the Navy,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "E. J. ...".

Lieutenant General, United States Marine Corps  
Commanding General, 3rd Marine Amphibious Brigade



F4



The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting a Gold Star in lieu of the second Navy Commendation Medal to

MAJOR OLIVER L. NORTH

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

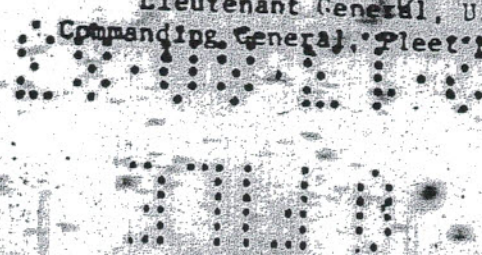
CITATION:

"For meritorious service while serving as Operations Officer, Battalion Landing Team 3/8, 32d Marine Amphibious Unit, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic from 3 June 1978 through 1 June 1979. Throughout a pre-deployment period characterized by extreme personnel turnover and continued commitment of the Battalion Landing Team to unrelated activities, Major NORTH planned, promulgated, and supervised an operations and training program of such superior quality that the Battalion Landing Team was brought from an undermanned and untrained condition in June 1978 to a fully effective and combat ready fighting force by December 1979. Major NORTH furthermore prepared in an uncommonly professional manner the operations and training plans and programs for six major amphibious exercises during the Battalion Landing Team's participation as the ground element of Landing Force 6th Fleet 1-79. As a consequence, from Carboneras, Spain to the shores of Doganbey, Turkey, the Battalion Landing Team displayed an operational capability and fighting spirit that drew praise from all observers. Dawn Patrol, a multinational North Atlantic Treaty Organization exercise involving six other nations, was the highpoint in this continuum. Major NORTH's superb performance of duty was instrumental in bringing about the highly successful deployment of the Battalion Landing Team and his selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

For the Secretary of the Navy,

*E. J. Miller*  
E. J. MILLER

Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic





The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL** to

**SECOND LIEUTENANT OLIVER L. NORTH**

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a Platoon Commander with Company K, Third Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. On 25 May 1969, while Company K was participating in Operation Virginia Ridge near the Demilitarized Zone, the lead platoon came under a heavy volume of machine gun and automatic weapons fire supported by rocket-propelled grenades, directional mines, and mortars. In the initial burst of fire, the platoon commander and point squad leader were seriously wounded. Realizing the need for immediate action, Second Lieutenant North rapidly maneuvered his Second Platoon through the lines of the beleaguered unit and personally initiated an aggressive assault against the North Vietnamese Army emplacement, the momentum of which forced the stunned hostile soldiers to withdraw to another hill and enabled the treatment and evacuation of Marine casualties. After regrouping his forces, he fearlessly led an attack on the enemy's new position, killing one soldier as his men closed with the enemy, and causing the North Vietnamese Army force to retreat to a previously prepared entrenchment on the ridgeline. Again reorganizing his men, Second Lieutenant North, with complete disregard for his own safety, assumed the foremost assault position and, seemingly oblivious to the intense machine gun fire impacting around him, led his men against the hostile position. As the tempo of the battle increased, casualties mounted, and his unit's ammunition supply became short. Unwilling to unnecessarily risk the lives of his men, he halted the attack and, repeatedly exposing himself to the heavy volume of fire delivered by the determined enemy soldiers, boldly directed the resupply of his platoon and the evacuation of the injured Marines. After skillfully adjusting fixed wing air strikes upon the North Vietnamese Army unit, Second Lieutenant North dauntlessly initiated a fourth assault by his wearied men. Calmly braving the intense fire of the tenacious hostile soldiers, he moved from one Marine to another, directing their fire and exhorting them to a last bold effort which, by his valorous perseverance, enabled his men to push the remainder of the North Vietnamese Army force from the ridgeline and to seize the objective. His heroic actions and vigorous efforts inspired all who observed him and contributed significantly to the defeat of the enemy. By his courage, dynamic leadership and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger, Second Lieutenant North upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

FOR THE PRESIDENT

*H. W. Buse*

H. W. BUSE, JR.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

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