

Enlisted Hero Walk Lackland AFB



Staff Sergeant Thomas Case



Silver Star

Vietnam

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star Medal to Thomas Case, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with the 17th Air Support Operations Squadron, 18th Air Support Operations Group, in support of elements of the U.S. Army's 75th

Ranger Regiment, during the opening stages of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in late March and early April 2003. Staff Sergeant Case's Ranger element began receiving small arms and heavy direct fire during a firefight that lasted three days. While engaging the enemy with his personal weapon within 30 meters of his target, he called in close air support and personally directed air strikes. During the onslaught, Staff Sergeant Case was frequently hit by fragments of concrete and shrapnel from the blasts, but continued to control up to 14 aircraft at a time. These attacks punctured his rucksack and often knocked him to the ground.