

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5754

20 September 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BEACH, KARL L. FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY United States Army
Co A, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster)

Date action: 7 June 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: First Lieutenant Beach distinguished himself on 7 June 1966 while serving as executive officer during a company combat operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Beach's company was to provide security for an artillery battery. The company had successfully counterattacked and repelled a large Viet Cong force. The determined Viet Cong attacked his troops on three separate occasions and each time were repulsed by the equally determined American soldiers. During the vicious battle, First Lieutenant Beach repeatedly exposed himself to intense hostile mortar fire. Despite this, he maintained his command post as close to the Viet Cong concentration as possible so that his subordinate leaders could readily reach him. His skillful use of artillery and deployment of troops, enabled his unit to withstand six hours of repeated hostile attacks. During the course of action, his command post was attacked by a squad of Viet Cong employing rifle grenades, machine guns and automatic weapon fire twenty meters to his left flank. First Lieutenant Beach unhesitatingly returned the fire while directing his command group and completely disrupted the Viet Cong attack. On another occasion, he spotted a Viet Cong squad advancing on an artillery position and motor park. First Lieutenant Beach immediately opened fire on the insurgents and successfully defended against them. Throughout the fierce battle, he was continuously moving from position to position, encouraging his men and directing their fire. Through his courageous efforts, First Lieutenant Beach was most instrumental in the successful operation. His extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.