

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 4864

21 July 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CRAIG, JAMES E. SECOND LIEUTENANT INFANTRY United States Army  
Co B, 2d Bn, 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 6 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Second Lieutenant Craig distinguished himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a search and destroy mission at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching a village shortly after midnight, the lead element entered a minefield and a soldier stepped on a mine. For the next four hours, Second Lieutenant Craig led his men out of the minefield. Although another man stepped on a mine, he continued to encourage his men until all were safely out of the minefield. In the early morning, his platoon suddenly received intense Viet Cong fire and sustained a few casualties. Realizing that further efforts to advance would result in numerous losses, Second Lieutenant Craig called for reinforcements and an air strike. After directing the air strike, he organized his platoon for an assault of the village. Because of the well-fortified Viet Cong positions, he was forced to stop short of the objective. Observing that two squad leaders and the platoon sergeant had been wounded, Second Lieutenant Craig reorganized his platoon and started forward again. After moving approximately 20 meters, they received intense hostile fire and sustained additional casualties. He then set up an extraction point and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. After the wounded were evacuated, Second Lieutenant Craig assembled his battle weary platoon, assaulted the village, and routed the Viet Cong defenders from their prepared defenses. Second Lieutenant Craig's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect 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.