

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO US Forces 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 2916

16 May 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

WIGHTMAN, ROBERT R. PLATOON SERGEANT E7 United States Army
Co B, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO US Forces 96347
Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 24 January 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Platoon Sergeant Wightman distinguished himself on 24 January 1966 while serving as acting platoon leader during a mission to relieve an element of an ambushed patrol near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Platoon Sergeant Wightman's platoon was moving to join its parent unit when his rear security squad was ambushed. He immediately led his men through flooded rice paddies back toward the beleaguered squad. As he and his men neared the pinned down element, the Viet Cong fire became more intense. After skillfully deploying his platoon to give him fire support, Platoon Sergeant Wightman, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved aggressively through heavy Viet Cong fire and directed the evacuation of the wounded to a nearby landing zone. When heavy Viet Cong fire forced away the incoming medical evacuation helicopter, Platoon Sergeant Wightman immediately called for tactical air support. As the aircraft approached the battle area, Platoon Sergeant Wightman skillfully directed effective air strikes and maneuvered his force against the insurgent troops. Promptly after the air strikes, he led his men in an aggressive attack, destroyed the insurgent positions, and routed the Viet Cong. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, fire superiority was regained over the insurgent troops and the casualties of the beleaguered squad were successfully evacuated. Platoon Sergeant Wightman's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a superior hostile 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.