

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1835

25 March 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR
(POSTHUMOUS)

1. TO :20. The following AWARD is announced.

MOLLOHAN, STEVEN P. STAFF SERGEANT E6 United States Army
Co F, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO JS Forces 96347
Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)
Date action: 6 February 1966
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Mollohan distinguished himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as weapons squad leader on a search and destroy operation near Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1100 hours, his unit received an intense volume of machine gun fire from well-concealed and heavily fortified Viet Cong positions near the village of Canh Tinh. Staff Sergeant Mollohan unhesitatingly took the squad nearest him and maneuvered toward the insurgents flank. He inspired the troops to follow his aggressive example as they began to assault the hostile positions. However, the Viet Cong shifted some of their fire to the advancing squad, and the momentum of their assault faltered. Staff Sergeant Mollohan then quickly moved from man to man, while completely exposed to the hostile fire, and established fire superiority over the insurgents. As the battle progressed and the platoon was maneuvering, Staff Sergeant Mollohan again exposed himself to intense hostile fire to direct medical aidmen to the wounded. In one instance he ran across fifty meters of open rice paddy and pulled one of his wounded men to the protective cover of a paddy dike so medical aidmen could administer aid to him. As a new maneuver element advanced toward the Viet Cong trenches, one of Staff Sergeant Mollohan's machine guns jammed with a ruptured cartridge in the chamber. Realizing the importance of the fire power at this critical moment, Staff Sergeant Mollohan ran from man to man to find a cleaning rod to clear the chamber of the jammed machine gun. While exposed to the intense hostile fire that was concentrated on him, he was mortally wounded. His tremendous stamina, exemplary leadership, and personal courage contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Staff Sergeant Mollohan's gallant actions on the field of battle were 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.