

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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 5276

9 August 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR  
(POSTHUMOUS)

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BAKER, JAMES FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY United States Army  
Co C, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 9 June 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: First Lieutenant Baker distinguished himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon suddenly received intense hostile fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force, First Lieutenant Baker ran to the head of the column and calmly issued instructions to his men. Observing that a Viet Cong machine gun was greatly endangering his platoon, First Lieutenant Baker personally directed suppressive fire on the insurgent bunker. Although completely exposed to the hostile fire, he led an assault and inspired his platoon to defeat the Viet Cong force. As First Lieutenant Baker was preparing to assault another position, he was mortally wounded. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. First Lieutenant Baker's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically 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.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



S. A. MacKENZIE  
Colonel, AGC  
Adjutant General

RICHARD J. SEITZ  
Brigadier General, US Army  
Chief of Staff