

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 2466

22 April 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

DRAKE, ROBERT E. SERGEANT E5 United States Army
Co A, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO US Forces 96347
Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 9 December 1965 to 10 December 1965

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Sergeant Drake distinguished himself from 9 December 1965 to 10 December 1965 while serving as assistant patrol leader of a squad size element during a reconnaissance mission in "War Zone D", Republic of Vietnam. After successfully infiltrating into Viet Cong territory, Sergeant Drake's patrol was to remain in place until they were covered by the forward movement of friendly troops. Despite the skill and experience of the patrol, they were discovered after several hours and engaged by a Viet Cong platoon. While moving to a more tenable position, the patrol leader was wounded and became too weak to effectively direct the patrol. Sergeant Drake immediately assumed command and formed a defensive perimeter. On the following morning, as he was preparing to extricate his patrol with two wounded and two dead, the Viet Cong launched another assault. Sergeant Drake immediately set up another defensive perimeter and personally prevented a breakthrough on the left flank. When the forward observer was killed, Sergeant Drake, with complete disregard for his personal safety, crawled 30 meters to the radio and called for suppressive artillery fire. At least six times during the course of action, Sergeant Drake exposed himself to direct fire as he maneuvered around the perimeter to distribute ammunition and treat casualties. Through his courage, determination, and outstanding leadership, the insurgents were forced to withdraw, and a Viet Cong regimental base camp was discovered and subsequently destroyed. Sergeant Drake's extraordinary heroism 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.