

HEADQUARTERS
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I. SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Brigadier General *Nguyen Vinh Nghi*, , Army of the Republic of Vietnam, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action in connection with military operations against an opposing hostile force on 31 July 1969 while serving as Commanding General, 21st Infantry Division (RVN). General *Nghi*, after being informed that his 31st Regiment had made battle contact with two battalions of the 3d North Vietnamese Regiment at Rach Gia, immediately proceeded there to personally direct the operation. Arriving in the area by Command and Control helicopter, he immediately directed the helicopter pilot to fly at tree top level so that he could pinpoint enemy targets and troop positions. At approximately 1700 hours, the 31st Regiment succeeded in blocking the North Vietnamese force on three sides. However, the enemy force, realizing this, began moving to the open section of the perimeter. Recognizing the importance of keeping the enemy under complete observation, he directed the pilot to make several low-level flights over the enemy positions to draw hostile fire and contain the enemy and gave personal direction to additional friendly forces which were being landed by boat. This action closed the gap and encircled the enemy. General *Nghi*, still making low-level flights during the early hours of darkness, continued to pinpoint enemy positions and directed that the ground troops conduct a limited night attack to insure the enemy would not escape. His valiant example of personal courage and gallantry in the face of intense enemy automatic and small arms fire so inspired the friendly forces that they pressed the attack so vigorously that the battle resulted in 77 North Vietnamese soldiers killed and three captured. General *Nghi's* conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroic actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

II. SILVER STAR 1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *William L. Speer*, , Medical Service Corps, (then infantry), United States Army, who while serving as Commanding Officer, Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 8 January 1968, in the Republic of Vietnam. Company B was conducting a combat operation northwest of Fire Support Base West in the Que Son Valley when it engaged a North Vietnamese Army force of almost battalion size. The company was immediately pinned down by heavy small arms fire from three sides. Dis-

regarding the heavy small arms fire, Captain *Speer* moved about, evaluating the positions of his platoons, informing them of the locations of the other platoons, and encouraging his new men. During the course of the battle he was informed that personnel in an enemy bunker were placing heavy fire on the 1st Platoon. Using several hand grenades, he eliminated the enemy strong point. The better to control the various elements of his unit, he moved to the center of a rice paddy to his east. From that position, he controlled a retrograde movement of his unit and evacuation of the wounded to a secure village. He pointed out targets and directed artillery fire to within 50 yards of his position. He then rejoined his unit in the village where he reorganized and redistributed ammunition. While evacuating casualties, his unit came under indirect enemy fire. Learning that the 60-millimeter-mortar base plate had been lost, he improvised a base plate and then directed mortar fire into the enemy locations. The mortar fire effectively stopped the enemy advance. Captain *Speer's* decisive leadership and gallant conduct inspired his men and contributed to the successful defeat of determined enemy attacks. His conduct was in keeping with the cherished traditions of the military service and reflected utmost credit on him and the United States Army.

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Bernard W. Newman*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 5 May 1968 while serving with Company A, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces in an advisory capacity to a company of Civilian Irregular Defense Group soldiers during a reconnaissance operation. The company made contact with enemy troops and moved immediately in pursuit but was ambushed by a reinforced company of enemy troops and sustained heavy casualties in the initial barrage of fire. Although under extremely heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire, Sergeant *Newman* led an assault to push back the enemy force and was able to knock out the enemy's most damaging machine-gun position. After being pinned down by enemy fire, Sergeant *Newman* calmly directed artillery fire on the enemy positions until American gunships arrived to assist in the fighting. After arrival of the gunships, Sergeant *Newman* began the withdrawal of the friendly troops. During the withdrawal he was wounded in the leg by enemy rifle fire while acting as the cover force by himself. After moving to a more secure position, Sergeant *Newman* continued to provide covering fire for the withdrawing friendly forces. He refused medical attention and continued to assist, directing the gunships in their fight against the enemy, continuously exposing himself to enemy fire. Sergeant *Newman's* valorous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflected the highest credit on him and the United States Army.

III. LEGION OF MERIT. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 and Executive Order 10600, 15 March 1953, the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service is awarded to:

Lieutenant General *Fernando Gonzalez-Camino y Aguirre*, Spanish Army. May 1968 to July 1971.

IV--LEGION OF MERIT. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 and Executive Order 10600, 15 March 1953, The Legion of Merit (Degree of Legionnaire) for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service is awarded to:

Colonel *Victor J. Suarez Romero*, , Colombian Army. May 1970 to February 1971.

V--SOLDIER'S MEDAL. By directions of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Second Lieutenant *Pradist Duangjarus*, , Royal Thai Army, who distinguished himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy on 2 August 1969, while serving as 1st Platoon Leader, 1st Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force, Vietnam. At approximately 0930 hours in Nhon Trach District, Bien Hoa Province, Republic of Vietnam, Lieutenant *Pradist* assisted in the rescue of a American officer and a Thai Aviation pilot from a burning helicopter and helped carry them to safety. Lieutenant *Pradist* was on patrol after having been inserted into the area during a combat-air-assault operation. The OH-13 helicopter from the Thai Light Aviation Company was attempting to land near the location of Lieutenant *Pradist's* platoon. The helicopter, upon landing, began to slide in the soft muddy soil and the tail rotor became entangled in the brush. As the helicopter attempted to take off it flipped over, shattering the canopy, and the plane burst into flames. Realizing the seriousness of the accident and that the American officer and Thai pilot were caught in the burning aircraft, Lieutenant *Pradist*, and a United States Army Liaison Noncommissioned Officer rushed to the ship to free the persons trapped inside. Lieutenant *Pradist* pulled the pilot free and then attempted to free the American officer but was not immediately successful as he was pinned in by the passenger door. While the Noncommissioned Officer lifted the burning helicopter and rocked the ship, Lieutenant *Pradist* freed the officer and pulled him safely away from the ship. At this moment several hand grenades in the ship began to explode and the fuel tanks caught fire, thus completely demolishing the helicopter. An American officer in a command-and-control ship circling overhead landed and evacuated the two wounded officers. Lieutenant *Pradist* acted with complete disregard for his own safety. His rapid estimate and response undoubtedly resulted in saving the lives of both. Lieutenant *Pradist's* heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit and the Royal Thai Army.

VI--SOLDIER'S MEDAL. 1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Private First Class *Thomas J. Byers*, , 54th Military Police Company, Fort Ord, California, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Fort Ord, California on 9 July 1971. On that date Private *Byers* performed a heroic act that prevented injury and possible death to a trainee, who had climbed a 50-foot water tower and threatened to commit suicide by jumping from the tower. Placing the safety of the soldier and performance of duty above the regard for his personal safety, Private *Byers*

climbed the water tower and engaged the trainee in conversation in an attempt to gain his confidence. After approximately 10 minutes, Private *Byers* was able to get close to the trainee and grabbed him. Together with another military policeman, they assisted the trainee down the ladder from the water tower to the safety of the ground. His decisiveness, quick thinking, and courage during the period of this act saved the trainee from possible serious injury or loss of life. By his courageous action and humanitarian regard for his fellow man and dedication of service to his country, Private First Class *Byers* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army. (This award supersedes the Army Commendation Medal awarded to Private *Byers* for heroism on 9 July 1971, as announced in General Orders Number 120, Headquarters United States Army Training Center, Infantry and Fort Ord, California, dated 20 September 1971).

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Chaplain (Captain) *Thomas R. Fraker*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by exceptional heroism involving risk of life at Fort Benning, Georgia on 28 September 1971. On that date Chaplain *Fraker* was called to Eubanks Army Air Field where he was briefed about a man who was threatening to commit suicide from a 250-foot tower. At great personal risk to himself, Chaplain *Fraker* climbed the tower and talked the man out of committing suicide. After more than an hour, he then accompanied the man down to the ground. By his courageous action and humanitarian regard for his fellow man and dedication of service to his country, Chaplain *Fraker* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

3. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

First Lieutenant *James R. Landblom*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Fayetteville, North Carolina on 8 April 1971. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant *Landblom* entered a burning house trailer and traveled its entire length through heavy smoke and intense heat to rescue a 16-month-old child. Any hesitation on the part of Lieutenant *Landblom* would have resulted in the loss of the child's life, since the trailer was destroyed by the time the Fire Department arrived. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, First Lieutenant *Landblom* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

4. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Second Lieutenant *Peter C. Neukom*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Hopewell, Virginia on 6 June 1970. On that date Lieutenant *Neukom* was fishing from the shore of the Appomattox River, when he heard screaming. He looked out and saw the head of a small boy just visible on the surface of the rapidly

moving river. He ran upstream until he reached the best vantage point to swim to the boy. He dove into the water and swam to where the boy was last seen. He dove and surfaced several times before he finally came up with the boy and towed him to the shore. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Second Lieutenant *Neukon* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

5. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Specialist Four *Richard M. Newton*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Siegelbach, Germany on 29 December 1970. On that date Specialist *Newton*, disregarding great personal risk, pulled a German citizen from a burning automobile moments after it had been in a serious accident. He returned to the burning wreckage a second time to aid the driver, who was pinned inside the wreckage. The second attempt, unfortunately, was to no avail. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Specialist Four *Newton* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

6. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Captain *Arthur R. Paik*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Baumholder, Germany, on 31 March 1971. On that date Captain *Paik* was in his quarters when he heard a disturbance in the hallway. He discovered a female German employee totally enveloped in flames. With utter disregard for his own personal safety, he restrained the woman, placed her on the floor and extinguished the flames with an extinguisher. After extinguishing the flames, he quickly summoned aid. The lady was removed to a German hospital. Before seeking treatment for his own injuries, he investigated the source of the fire and discovered a can of inflammable material on a stove in the kitchen. He extinguished the fire, preventing extensive damage to the building. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Captain *Paik* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

7. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Second Lieutenant *Robert J. Richardson*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Grafenwohr, West Germany on 21 March 1971. On that date Lieutenant *Richardson* was the administrative officer-in-charge on Range 45 at Grafenwohr, West Germany, where his battalion was conducting tank gunnery training exercises. Hearing shouts of "fire," Lieutenant *Richardson* saw a tank enveloped in flames near the ammunition point. He quickly gathered the range team personnel and instructed them to gather fire extinguishers and assist in putting out the fire. He then ran to the burning tank, climbed aboard, and began to take

ammunition being passed out of the turret. At this time, the tank was burning fiercely and was partially obscured by thick smoke. When the tank commander was forced to leave the turret due to the intense heat and smoke, Lieutenant *Richardson*, aware of the imminent danger of explosion, went into the turret and began to remove the remaining ammunition. The smoke inside the turret was extremely thick, but Lieutenant *Richardson* remained inside until he was overcome by smoke inhalation. He was evacuated to Vilseck Hospital for medical treatment. Lieutenant *Richardson*'s courage and selflessness prevented the loss of human lives and destruction of government property. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellowman, and dedication of service to his country, Second Lieutenant *Richardson* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

8. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *Harold W. Sharrow*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life while serving as a Military Policeman, 21st Military Police Company, 502d Military Police Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on 1 June 1971. On that date Sergeant *Sharrow* and his patrol partner were notified to answer an alarm at the Mallonee Village Branch of the First Citizens Bank. Upon arriving at the bank Sergeant *Sharrow* was informed that three armed men were inside the bank. Sergeant *Sharrow* instructed his patrol partner to position the patrol jeep in the driveway of the bank, hoping to block the escape of the men. Disregarding his personal safety, Sergeant *Sharrow* engaged the robbers in gunfire, resulting in the capture of one of them and recovery of a portion of the stolen money. The individual captured also supplied the names and descriptions of the others involved in the robbery. Sergeant *Sharrow*'s devotion to duty was outstanding and is worthy of the highest praise. By his courageous action and humanitarian regard for his fellow man and dedication of service to his country, Staff Sergeant *Sharrow* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

9. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Specialist Four (Then Private First Class) *John A. Smith*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Hohenfels, Germany on 8 July 1971. On that date a soldier was performing maintenance in a tank when three rounds of 105mm ammunition exploded, setting the tank on fire and injuring the man seriously. The tank was loaded with its basic load of ammunition. The fire caused other ammunition to become hot and in danger of exploding. Specialist *Smith* attempted to enter the burning tank but was initially turned away by the intense heat and smoke. Determined to rescue the man, he obtained a protective mask, entered the tank and lifted the soldier through the loader's hatch. Once outside the tank himself, he collapsed from smoke inhalation, personal injuries, and shock. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Specialist Four *Smith* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

10. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant *Robert M. Stover*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Gatun, Canal Zone on 6 November 1971. On that date, while fishing in the Chagres River, Sergeant *Stover* noticed two boys being swept away by strong waves. Sergeant *Stover* entered the water in an attempt to save the two boys. After bringing one of the boys to shore he reentered the water and brought the other boy safely to shore. Due to the strong currents and waves Sergeant *Stover* collapsed from exhaustion. Disregarding his exhaustion he entered the water again and attempted to rescue a fellow soldier. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Staff Sergeant *Stover* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

11. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Specialist Four *Larry G. Stratton*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Siegelbach, Germany on 29 December 1970. Specialist *Stratton*, disregarding great personal risk and danger, pulled a German citizen from a burning automobile moments after it had been involved in a serious accident. He returned to the site of the burning wreckage a second time to aid the driver, who was pinned inside the wreckage. The second attempt, unfortunately, was to no avail. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Specialist Four *Stratton* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

12. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Dale R. Thomas*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Grafenwoehr, Germany on 21 March 1971. On that date a tank located near an ammunition point burst into flames. Facilities were not adequate to bring the fire under control. Sergeant *Thomas* quickly obtained another tank and towed the blazing vehicle away from the ammunition point. Completely disregarding his personal safety, Sergeant *Thomas* climbed onto the burning tank and began to take ammunition being passed from inside the turret. When the tank commander was forced from the turret due to the intense heat, Sergeant *Thomas* quickly climbed into the turret. He remained inside the burning tank until all the ammunition had been removed. He then assisted in towing the tank into an open field. Sergeant *Thomas*' courageous action prevented the loss of lives and further destruction of government property. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Sergeant First Class *Thomas* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

13. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Specialist Four *Hugh L. Thomas*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on 15 March 1971. On that date a fire broke out in an administrative storage area where men were working and was spreading toward a tracked recovery vehicle parked nearby. Specialist *Thomas* realized immediately that the vehicle would explode if it remained where it was, destroying everything near it. He climbed into the vehicle and drove it to a safe area. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Specialist Four *Thomas* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

14. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Specialist Five *Robert T. Toomer*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Grafenwohr, West Germany on 21 March 1971. On that date his company was conducting tank gunnery training exercises. Specialist *Toomer's* tank was positioned near an ammunition point in preparation for firing on the range, when his tank burst into flames. Specialist *Toomer* quickly ran to the rear deck of the blazing tank and attempted to smother the flames with a fire extinguisher. The fire was beyond control. Another vehicle was ordered to tow the burning tank away from the ammunition point. Specialist *Toomer* plunged into the thick smoke and assisted in connecting the tow cables. After the tank had been towed to a safe location, Specialist *Toomer* climbed on board and began to take ammunition from an individual inside the tank. When the tank commander was forced out of the turret by the intense heat and smoke, Specialist *Toomer* quickly climbed into the turret. Completely disregarding his own safety, Specialist *Toomer* remained inside the blazing tank until all the ammunition had been removed and he was ordered to leave by his Company Commander. Specialist *Toomer's* courageous action prevented the loss of human life and further destruction of government property. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Specialist Five *Toomer* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

15. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Specialist Four *Dean E. Wayt*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Feucht, Germany on 29 March 1971. On that date Specialist *Wayt* observed two 16,000-gallon fuel-transporting railcars loaded with diesel fuel, crash through a metal chain-link gate at the entrance to the Petroleum Supply Point. They continued to roll at a speed of approximately 10 miles per hour out of the Supply Point and down the tracks. Specialist *Wayt* ran after the first of the two railcars, jumped aboard, and stopped the railcar by manually operating the braking

device. Specialist *Wayt*'s courageous actions averted a possible disaster. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Specialist Four *Wayt* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

16. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Private First Class *James Williams*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life of Fort Belvoir, Virginia on 14 September 1970. On that date Private *Williams* observed a dump truck overturn and erupt in flames on Interstate Highway 495. Upon hearing screams from the driver trapped in the cab of the truck and without regard for his own personal safety, he proceeded to assist in the rescue of the driver from certain death. Despite the ever-present danger of explosion, Private *Williams* assisted in the removal of the driver and assured his safety and comfort while awaiting professional help. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Private First Class *Williams* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

17. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Specialist Four *Jimmy A. Williams*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by an act of heroism involving voluntary risk of life at West Point, New York on 13 October 1971. On that date three painters, who had been painting the inside of a water tank at Michie Stadium, West Point, had been overcome by the noxious fumes and were lying at the bottom of the tank. Because of the small size of the manhole on the top of the tank, members of the West Point Fire Department Rescue Squad were unable to enter the tank, and small, thin volunteers were needed. Specialist *Williams* quickly responded. He was lowered into the tank, which was still filled with noxious fumes, and he tied a rope around each of the painters who were then successively lifted to safety and resuscitated. Specialist *Williams*' quick actions and disregard for his personal safety saved the three men from death or serious injury. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Specialist Four *Williams* has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

VII--AIR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942, as amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942, an Air Medal with "V" device (Numeral 17) for heroism is awarded by the Department of the Army posthumously to:

Captain *George L. Aikin*, (then First Lieutenant), , United States Army, who distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty on 3 October 1969. On that date Captain *Aikin* responded to a call received from the 5th Special Forces at Dak Pek, Vietnam, requesting aid in locating and assisting a Special Forces team which had made heavy contact with a superior-size enemy force. He responded immediately to the request and flew

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to the contact area, approximately seven kilometers northeast of Dak Pek. Disregarding enemy ground-to-air fire, Captain *Aikin* proceeded to make several low passes, locating the friendly and enemy positions. With other series of low passes he was able to determine the most secure route back to Dak Pek for the Special Forces team and began directing them out of the enemy-held area. Faced with low ceilings and limited visibility, Captain *Aikin* began leading the team, continuously executing low passes over and ahead of them in order to deny the enemy an opportunity to set up an ambush site. Upon returning to Dak Pek, it was learned that the team had been led through two North Vietnamese companies without a single casualty solely through the efforts of Captain *Aikin*. Captain *Aikin*'s unyielding courage in the face of overwhelming odds, disregard for his own safety, and extreme devotion to duty were responsible for the successful return of a valuable Special Forces Intelligence team and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, reflecting great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Distribution:

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