DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 3216

6 July 1968

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

REICH, MERRILL D JR 05341633 (SSAN 259-64-6806) FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY United States Army, Detachment A-502, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, APO 96240
Awarded: Silver Star
Date Action: 27 May 1968
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: First Lieutenant Reich distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 27 May 1968 during an ambush operation in a suspected North Vietnamese Army infiltration area. Lieutenant Reich was providing security for the ambush's right flank. He observed the point squad of a large enemy force stalking his unit's positions with rocket launchers and automatic weapons. Realizing that his comrades were unaware of the danger and unable to warn them because of the proximity of the advancing enemy, Lieutenant Reich, leaped up and engaged the insurgents at point blank range, inflicting several casualties and driving the remainder back. Although severely wounded in that encounter and subjected to a murderous hail of enemy machine gun fire and rockets, he continued to fire into the advancing enemy main force, allowing his comrades time to reorganize and shift positions. He fought tenaciously until he was mortally wounded. Lieutenant Reich's heroism and devotion to duty inspired his fellow soldiers to smash the numerically superior enemy's advance and drive it back. First Lieutenant Reich's gallantry in action, at the cost of his life, 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.