

Carmichael Hero Wins Silver Star

A young Carmichael officer has been awarded the Silver Star for extraordinary heroism on a lone helicopter flight in Vietnam.

First Lt. Alan A. Cozzalio, 22, was cited in Vietnam for action last Sept. 15 on a reconnaissance mission near Ben Tre.

Cozzalio, son of Mel J. Cozzalio of 5000 Marconi Ave., was piloting a helicopter in support of ground forces.

He repeatedly flew through enemy fire to prevent enemy ops from surrounding the besieged Americans, and several times attacked the well

entrenched Viet Cong to enable the men on the ground to maneuver to a pickup zone.

When lift helicopters move in to pick up the ambushed men, Cozzalio flew directly over the enemy positions marking them with smoke grenades.

The Carmichael man, whose buddies in Delta Troop (3rd Battalion, 5th Air Cavalry) call him "Ace," entered the Army less than two years ago. The Troop's D platoon leader is a 1964 graduate of Mira Loma High School.

