

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 55 }

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 30 June 1953

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.—By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under AR 220-315, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the periods indicated. The citations read as follows:

1. The *4th Signal Battalion, Corps* (third award), is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 August 1952 to 1 February 1953. The battalion headquarters was located in one area in Korea while elements of the three wire construction companies were dispersed throughout a corps sector providing wire communication from the corps command post to divisions and other supporting units. Despite extremely adverse conditions of weather and terrain, the companies were successful in maintaining more than 1,400 circuit miles of lines. The battalion also was responsible for the construction of new communications lines into the corps communication center. These lines had to be constructed over rough, hazardous terrain and in areas infested by guerrillas and mine fields. In November of 1952, the battalion commenced construction of a new radio relay site. Because of existing conditions, it was necessary to cut native timber and to transport it a distance of approximately 8 miles. The radio relay site was completed on 30 November, testifying to the dogged determination and cooperation of battalion personnel. The *4th Signal Battalion, Corps*, displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions. The loyalty, initiative, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this battalion reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 469, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 10 May 1953.*)

2. *Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 23d Quartermaster Group* (second award), is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 November 1952 to 30 April 1953. The members of this company supervised and coordinated the administration, supply, and operations of 14 class I and III quartermaster supply points operating in direct support of combat forces. Under the company's direction, subordinate organizations issued large quantities of essential subsistence items and millions of gallons of petroleum products to units on the front. Because elements of the company were dispersed over a wide area, personnel traveled long distances over hazardous terrain in order to maintain a high standard of administrative efficiency. In all its operations, the company overcame formidable obstacles to insure a continuous and adequate flow of essential supplies to units engaged in active combat with the enemy. *Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 23d Quartermaster Group*, displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions. The loyalty, determination, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this company reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 487, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 17 May 1953.*)

3. The *51st Chemical Technical Intelligence Detachment* is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 15 October 1950 to 14 February 1952. As the first chemical technical intelligence unit in Korea,

the detachment successfully developed new procedures to accomplish its mission of collecting, evaluating, and reporting vital chemical, biological, and radiological intelligence information. The procedures established and developed by the detachment have become the basis for operations adopted by succeeding chemical technical intelligence units. Because it operated throughout the entire Eighth Army area, an area three times larger than normal for a unit of its size, and endured the severe hardships encountered during the first two winters of the Korean action, the detachment earned a superior record of accomplishments. The *51st Chemical Technical Intelligence Detachment* displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions. The loyalty, determination, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this detachment reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 512, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 26 May 1953.*)

4. *Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 70th Transportation Truck Battalion* (third award), is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 November 1952 to 30 April 1953. Demonstrating outstanding ability and determination, the members of this company provided necessary administration, operational control, and logistical support to transportation truck companies engaged in moving essential supplies, equipment, and personnel for United Nations combat forces. Despite the intricate problems entailed in establishing and maintaining liaison with elements of allied forces throughout Korea, the company fulfilled its mission in a highly commendable manner at all times. The company, although faced with operational difficulties occasioned by rotation of key personnel, succeeded in accomplishing the movement of numerous Republic of Korea Army divisions and units without accident or incident. *Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 70th Transportation Truck Battalion*, displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions. The loyalty, aggressiveness, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this company reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 483, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 15 May 1953.*)

5. The *73d Engineer Combat Battalion* is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 August 1952 to 31 March 1953. The battalion was responsible for the maintenance of 75 miles of road, 45 of which constituted the main supply route for a Republic of Korea Army division and United States units in forward areas. Despite extreme adverse weather conditions, including summer floods and heavy snows, the roads were kept in a superior condition at all times. In addition to the responsibility of road maintenance, the battalion undertook the construction of an 8-mile road to the main line of resistance of a Republic of Korea Army division. The road had to be laid through solid rock over most of its length and required extensive use of explosives throughout each stage of its construction. Although severely hampered during the last periods of this construction by extreme cold and enemy artillery fire, the battalion overcame even the most formidable obstacles and the project was completed on schedule. During the same period, the battalion operated and maintained several tramways supplying the main line of resistance of a Republic of Korea Army division, constructed more than 75 gun emplacements for artillery units, re-

surfaced over 30 miles of main supply route within its road responsibility, cleared five mine fields, and maintained in constant readiness a number of tactical air strips and helicopter landing sites. The 73d Engineer Combat Battalion displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions. The loyalty, initiative, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this battalion reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (General Orders 530, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 1 June 1953.)

6. The 176th Armored Field Artillery Battalion is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 April 1952 to 27 April 1953. Initially, this battalion was called upon to render artillery support to Task Force Paik, a Republic of Korea Army maneuver calculated to release vast areas in southern Korea from the control of well-organized guerrilla forces. In a series of swift, decisive actions, the guerrilla strongholds were destroyed, leaving only scattered remnants of their own powerful force which were no longer a threat to security and were easily controlled by local police action. Throughout this meticulously planned operation, the artillery support provided by this battalion was a significant factor in the success achieved. Upon being assigned the task of supporting the II Republic of Korea Army Corps engaged in active conflict with the enemy, the members of the 176th Armored Field Artillery Battalion displayed their extreme adaptability and singular technical skill by making it possible for the corps to carry on its mission, fully assured of the utmost in supporting fire. In the opening phases of this assignment, the almost overwhelming obstacles imposed by the barriers of language and custom were met, analyzed, and overcome by this battalion with a degree of effectiveness which inspired great confidence among the Republic of Korea Army units with which it served. In addition to direct support, the personnel of this battalion concurrently imparted their technical skills to their Korean contemporaries who were in the process of organizing their field artillery battalions. Instruction books were translated, countless ingenious visual instruction aids were employed, and valuable, on-the-job training procedures were instituted and supervised by the personnel of this battalion, not only in the firing and maintenance of artillery pieces, but also in the closely allied fields of signal communications, photo interpretation, vehicle driving and servicing, and the countless other details so essential to successful operations against the enemy. This task of unprecedented magnitude was approached with skill and enthusiasm by the battalion's personnel and carried out with such success that the Republic of Korea Army now operates its supporting artillery units with the utmost trust in the highly skilled technicians trained by this battalion. The 176th Armored Field Artillery Battalion displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units having similar missions. The versatility, technical proficiency, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this battalion reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (This award supersedes the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 176th Armored Field Artillery Battalion for meritorious services during the period 1 April to 30 November 1952, published in par. 6, sec. II, DA General Orders 21, 1953.) (General Orders 471, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 10 May 1953.)

7. The *300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion* is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 April 1952 to 27 April 1953. Operating first in support of Task Force Palk, a Republic of Korea Army tactical maneuver designed to free large areas in southern Korea from the grip of powerful guerrilla forces, this battalion participated in a series of vigorous, decisive actions which completely neutralized the collective fighting effectiveness of these groups. The artillery support of the *300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion* was of vital importance to the success of the operation. Subsequently, the members of this battalion exhibited determination of purpose and singular technical skill in supporting the II Republic of Korea Army Corps in bitter engagements against the foe. Despite the seemingly impossible problems resulting from language and custom differences, the battalion carried out its mission with a degree of proficiency which instilled great confidence in every unit of the Republic of Korea Army with which it worked. Not only did this battalion provide direct artillery support, but its personnel gave intensive technical training to their Korean counterparts who were striving to organize their artillery battalions. Highly practical training methods were employed, numerous effective visual teaching aids were utilized, and the monumental task of translating field manuals and training directives from English to Korean was completed quickly and thoroughly. The allied fields of vehicle operation and maintenance, photo interpretation, observation methods, and signal communication were not neglected. Specialists in these subjects successfully imparted their knowledge while, at the same time, fully impressing upon their students the distinct value of the techniques they advocated. The superior support rendered by the battalion's members enabled the Republic of Korea Army to organize its organic artillery units with maximum effectiveness, while the battalion provided direct supporting fire. The *300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion* displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units having similar missions. The technical skill, esprit de corps, and high standard of excellence exhibited by the personnel of this battalion reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (This award supersedes the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the *300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion* for meritorious services during the period 1 April to 30 November 1952, published in par. 7, sec. II, DA General Orders 21, 1953.) (*General Orders 472, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 10 May 1953.*)

8. The *388th Chemical Smoke Generator Company* (augmented) is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 September 1952 to 30 April 1953. Through diligent and conscientious application to duty, the members of this company maintained a superior record of achievement. The company provided uninterrupted smoke support to the forward elements of three United States corps. The standard of performance remained constantly superior despite rapid turnover in personnel and widespread operation. The *388th Chemical Smoke Generator Company* displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions. The determination, loyalty, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this company reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 500, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 22 May 1953.*)

9. The *401st Chemical Technical Service Intelligence Detachment* (second award), with the *503d Chemical Technical Intelligence Detachment* attached, is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 October 1952 to 20 May 1953. The detachment, the only organization of its kind in Korea, collected vital intelligence information pertaining to chemical, biological, and radiological warfare through interrogation of prisoners of war and research on captured enemy materiel and documents. By skilled evaluation and interpretation of technical evidence, the detachment was successful in obtaining and disseminating valuable information and statistics concerning enemy training, equipment, and capabilities pertaining to chemical, biological, and radiological warfare. Although operating over an area much larger than that expected of a unit its size, the detachment assisted in training United Nations personnel in chemical, biological, and radiological defense while carrying out its normal duties in a superior manner. Despite a rapid turnover in personnel, the detachment consistently maintained an efficient and smooth-functioning program and exhibited a genuine willingness to assume additional responsibilities. The *401st Chemical Technical Service Intelligence Detachment* with the *503d Chemical Technical Intelligence Detachment*, attached, displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units. The loyalty, aggressiveness, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this detachment reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 524, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 20 May 1953.*)

10. The *987th Field Artillery Battalion* is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 April 1952 to 27 April 1953. In the opening phase of this period, this battalion played a significant role in Task Force Paik, a Republic of Korea Army operations designed to eliminate the guerrilla threat in Korea. Providing artillery support during 5 days of sustained action, the battalion's personnel functioned with singular effectiveness, contributing greatly to the successful accomplishment of the exacting mission of the task force. Reassigned to operate in support of the II Republic of Korea Army Corps while its organic elements engaged in some of the bitterest campaigns in the Korean conflict, the vigorous and dependable actions of the battalion proved a constant source of renewed confidence to the individual Republic of Korea infantryman as he advanced under the protective canopy of its accurate fire. At this time, although actively engaged against the foe, the Republic of Korea Army was simultaneously attempting to organize its artillery battalions. The problems encountered were many and difficult but, with characteristic determination and ingenuity, the personnel of this battalion, in addition to their firing missions, trained their Korean contemporaries in the intricacies of maximum artillery utilization. Not only were intensive courses in the actual firing and maintenance of the pieces instituted, but parallel specialties such as communications, vehicle driving and maintenance, photo interpretation, and observation methods were taught with equal success. Although the task appeared impossible to perform because of inherent differences in language and custom, the singleness of purpose of the battalion's members and their superior technical skill swept aside all obstacles and provided a firm basis upon which the Republic of Korea Army was able to build its artillery organization, which became noted for its efficiency and combat effectiveness. The *987th Field Artillery Battalion*

displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units having similar missions. The enthusiasm, inspiring esprit de corps, and tireless devotion to duty exhibited by the members of this battalion reflect great credit themselves and the military service of the United States. (This award supersedes the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 987th Field Artillery Battalion for meritorious services during the period 1 April to 30 November 1952, published in par. 9, sec. II, DA General Orders 21, 1953.) (*General Orders 470, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 10 May 1953.*)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

WM. E. BERGIN
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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Chief of Staff, United States Army

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