

GENERAL ORDERS }

No. 30

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 30 August 1965

GO 3/66

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation by the President of the United States of America to the following units of the United States Army and the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citations as announced by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 25 April 1965 read as follows:

Distinguished
GO 3/66

1. **THE 197TH AVIATION COMPANY (ARMED HELICOPTER).** By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States I have today awarded The Presidential Unit Citation to the 197th Aviation Company, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in Vietnam. The 197th Aviation Company (Armed Helicopter) is cited for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force near Duc Hoa, Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 through 3 April 1965. This unit was operating in a Viet Cong infested area with the hazardous mission of selecting, reconnoitering, marking and providing suppressive fire on helicopter landing zones in support of ground forces of the Republic of Vietnam. At about 1400 hours on 1 April, the Unit was providing overhead cover for the first troop landing. As the troop carriers departed the landing zone, strong enemy automatic weapons fire was received. One unit aircraft was hit early in the fighting; the copilot was seriously wounded and the aircraft suffered major damage. During the conduct of subsequent troop landing and overhead cover missions, the Unit's helicopters continued to receive heavy automatic weapons fire which damaged six additional aircraft. In spite of the damage and casualties sustained, the aircraft were refueled, rearmed, and returned to action. During the afternoon the ground forces were heavily engaged and required helicopter fire support as well as armed escort for medical evacuation and resupply missions. These escorts were performed in a timely and efficient manner notwithstanding the continuous Viet Cong automatic weapons fire received. As darkness fell, a Viet Cong attack penetrated friendly positions resulting in the death of two U.S. Army Ground Advisors and the separation of another from his Unit; one helicopter landed in the face of heavy ground fire and rescued the Advisor. At daybreak on 2 April the Company resumed its missions. During the day reconnaissance and suppressive fire were provided for two additional troop lifts into separate landing zones. Again intense enemy fire was encountered and three aircraft sustained combat damage. The Viet Cong broke contact during the night. At about noon on 3 April a successful effort was made to regain contact by landing Republic of Vietnam forces to the rear of the insurgents. Again, landing zone reconnaissance and suppression were accomplished in the face of extremely heavy Viet Cong ground fire. The dogged determination, gallantry and indomitable spirit with which the 197th Aviation Company successfully accomplished all assigned missions in the face of violent insurgent fire are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit on all members of the Unit who participated in this remarkable combat action.

2. THE 44TH RANGER BATTALION. By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States I have today awarded The Presidential Unit Citation to the 44th Ranger Battalion, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, for extraordinary heroism in Vietnam. The 44th Ranger Battalion is cited for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in Chuong Thien Province, Vietnam on 6 April 1965. On this date the 44th Ranger Battalion was reserve element of a larger force engaged in a search and destroy operation against two Viet Cong force battalions. At 1030 hours the Battalion was lifted by helicopter into battle when the lead infantry battalion accompanied by an armored personnel carrier troop were halted by intense fire delivered on their positions by the well-entrenched and camouflaged enemy. Although the enemy delivered withering machine-gun fire on the men of the 44th Ranger Battalion as they entered the landing zone, they showed undaunted courage and indomitable fighting spirit as they immediately launched an assault through the infantry and armored units, freeing them for future commitment. Despite numerous casualties, this gallant unit carried out their fierce assault against an estimated enemy battalion. After routing the determined insurgents from their position by demoralizing hand-to-hand combat, the 44th Ranger Battalion turned their heroic attack directly into the main enemy defensive positions located on a main canal. In spite of the loss of their executive officer, a U.S. Army Advisor, and three helicopters during the lift, the remainder of the battalion pursued the attack with undaunted courage and steadfast determination against the fanatical forces manning the main defense. They succeeded in rolling up the flank of the enemy and causing them to withdraw in confusion, leaving behind over fifty dead and numerous weapons. The determined, courageous heliborne assault by the 44th Ranger Battalion was the major contribution to the success of the operation and was of the highest inspirational order. The actions of the 44th Ranger Battalion reflect conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on the Republic of Vietnam. 603/66

3. THE 883D REGIONAL FORCE COMPANY. By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States I have today awarded The Presidential Unit Citation to the 883d Regional Force Company, Republic of Vietnam, for extraordinary heroism in Vietnam. The 883d Regional Force Company, a unit of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam is cited for extraordinary heroism in combat near Ha Tay, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam on 10 March 1965. The 883d Regional Force Company was assigned the defense of the village of Ha Tay as a part of the overall defense of the important district town of Hoai An. At 0300 hours on 9 March the 883d Company, with a strength of only 71 men, was attacked by a Viet Cong battalion of vastly superior strength. It was the Viet Cong plan to overrun Ha Tay and join forces with another battalion to seize Hoai An district headquarters occupying a narrow ridge above Ha Tay. The 883d Company withstood repeated enemy assaults, all of which were supported by intense mortar and recoilless rifle fire. Through the morning this unit made its gallant stand unaided by outside fire support. By 1100 hours, the Company had sustained over 30 killed in action or seriously wounded and had nearly exhausted its

ammunition and grenades. The members of the Company were undaunted. They hid their automatic weapons and in a final desperate charge broke out of their encircled position to join a larger Vietnamese unit. This gallant stand completely disrupted the Viet Cong attack. The battalion attacking Ha Tay was prevented from joining the attack on Hoai An. Hoai An was saved and friendly forces gained time in which to mount a counterattack from outside the battle area. The counterattack was successful in driving the enemy from the area. The dogged defense of Ha Tay by the 883d Regional Force Company resulted in the death of 221 Viet Cong and the capture of two machineguns. A vastly superior force had been held at bay for eleven hours and a major enemy attack had been disrupted. The actions of the 883d Regional Force Company reflect conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on the Republic of Vietnam.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

HAROLD K. JOHNSON,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

J. C. LAMBERT,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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