

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 3

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 27 January 1966

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I.—MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

The citations read as follows:

THE 57TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HELICOPTER AMBULANCE), UNITED STATES FORCES, VIETNAM, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam, from March 1964 to April 1965. During this period, the members of this Detachment demonstrated fortitude, perseverance, and professional skill in providing evacuation support for United States Forces and 3d Country personnel in the Republic of Vietnam, as well as medical assistance to the Republic of Vietnam as requested. As insurgent activities increased and a greater number of casualties were sustained in the *57th Medical Detachment's* area of operation, the unit met the demanding requirements with outstanding effectiveness. Evacuation from field pickup sites while under gunfire became commonplace, and the unit adopted single ship night evacuation missions to provide as much service as possible to the American ground advisors scattered throughout the country. On numerous occasions while supporting heliborne assaults, the Detachment rescued seriously wounded crewmen from helicopters that were downed by enemy gunfire and saved them from possible capture or death by the Viet Cong. When called upon to work closely with the United States Air Force in their operations, the *57th Medical Detachment* established a most productive working relationship which contributed to the success of joint objectives and of several significant combat operations. While participating in over 4,000 missions, the pilots and crewmen of this Detachment unhesitatingly and bravely exposed themselves to great personal risk in support of the counterinsurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The courage, determination, and professional competence displayed by the members of the *57 Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance)* during this critical period reflect great credit upon themselves, the United States Army, and the Armed Forces of their country.

THE 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION (SUPPORT), AND ATTACHED UNITS—HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, THE 178TH SIGNAL COMPANY (SUPPORT), THE 232D SIGNAL COMPANY (SUPPORT), THE 362D SIGNAL COMPANY (TROPOSPHERIC), AND THE 72D SIGNAL DETACHMENT—distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service while engaged in support operations in the Republic of Vietnam, from February 1962 to June 1965. The members of the *39th Signal Battalion (Support)*, and the foregoing units, demonstrated perseverance, professional skill, and fortitude in meeting the constantly increasing requirements

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for communications and communications support for the United States Armed Forces in the Republic of Vietnam. Utilizing tested and developmental communications systems, such as Tropospheric scatter system systems, and single sideband radio, the *39th Signal Battalion (Support)* successfully merged incompatible equipment into a highly efficient and effective tactical communications system. Despite the continual increase in work requirements, the members of the *39th Signal Battalion (Support)* provided highly reliable communications support through their determination, diligence, and tenacity of purpose while subjected to hazardous circumstances in a hostile environment. The *39th Signal Battalion (Support)* also made an outstanding contribution to Signal Corps doctrine on the employment of long lines communications systems in tactical situations which was of significant value in supporting the counter-insurgency effort in Vietnam. The professional ability, exceptional accomplishments, and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the *39th Signal Battalion (Support)* reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Army.

II. THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION. 1. So much of General Orders Number 30, Department of the Army, 30 August 1965, as pertains to award of the Presidential Unit Citation to THE 197TH AVIATION COMPANY (ARMED HELICOPTER), THE 44TH RANGER BATTALION, and THE 883D REGIONAL FORCE COMPANY as reads "The Presidential Unit Citation" is amended to read "Distinguished Unit Citation."

2. So much of General Orders Number 38, Department of the Army, 30 November 1965, as pertains to award of the Presidential Unit Citation to THE 42D RANGER BATTALION as reads "The Presidential Unit Citation" is amended to read "Distinguished Unit Citation."

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

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

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

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