

GENERAL ORDERS

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HEADQUARTERS
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I. DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION. Award of the Distinguished Unit Citation by the President of the United States of America to the following units of the Armed Forces of the United States is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation as announced by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 15 August 1966 reads as follows:

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 (15 August 1966) awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism to:

THE 145TH AVIATION BATTALION, UNITED STATES ARMY
and the Attached Units:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT OF
THE 145TH AVIATION BATTALION

74TH AVIATION COMPANY
118TH AVIATION COMPANY (AIRMObILE LIGHT)
120TH AVIATION COMPANY (AIRMObILE LIGHT)
197TH AVIATION COMPANY (AIRMObILE LIGHT)
COMPANY A, 501ST AVIATION BATTALION
COMPANY A, 82D AVIATION BATTALION
COMPANY A, 101ST AVIATION BATTALION
117TH AVIATION COMPANY (AIRMObILE LIGHT)
57TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT
69TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT
573D TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
93D MEDICAL DETACHMENT
198TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT
98TH TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
129TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT
225TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT
8TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT
151ST TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
94TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT
571ST TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
166TH TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
234TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT
25TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT
63D TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
320TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT

The foregoing units serving with the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in action against insurgent forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 10 June to 13 June 1965. When the besieged defenders of Dong Xoai requested assistance in repelling a vicious

Viet Cong attack, the units participating with the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION responded rapidly with support. Upon learning that a group of the defenders of Dong Xoai were wounded, needed medical help, and were exposed to the danger of being overrun by the Viet Cong because of a shortage of ammunition, the crews of three helicopters volunteered to attempt a rescue. Although the insurgents had all approaches covered by .50 caliber machine-guns and were directing heavy automatic weapons fire into the compound, the helicopters were flown through the withering fire and landed near the besieged defenders. The helicopter crews kept up a continuous stream of suppressive gun fire while ten Americans and eight Vietnamese were loaded aboard the aircraft and evacuated. The Vietnamese commanders who were evacuated gave valuable information which led to the daring plan to save the village of Dong Xoai. Helicopters of the battalion, standing by at a staging area, were loaded with Vietnamese troops and took off for Dong Xoai. When the Viet Cong met the flight with intense .30 and .50 caliber automatic weapons fire, one helicopter was shot down, killing the entire American crew and ten Vietnamese soldiers. As the fighting continued and three other aircraft were hit, the armed helicopters saturated the Viet Cong positions with rockets and machinegun fire. Although the Viet Cong were beaten back slowly, the helicopters from the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION continued to provide fire support and to perform combat assaults and medical evacuations. A total of 2,700 sorties were flown and 3,500 troops were airlifted or repositioned. The determination, indomitable courage, and extraordinary heroism demonstrated by these units participating with the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

II--VALOROUS UNIT AWARD. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1, AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded the following named unit of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

The Valorous Unit Award is awarded by direction of the Secretary of the Army to:

THE 114TH AVIATION COMPANY (AIR MOBILE LIGHT)
for extraordinary heroism:

The 114TH AVIATION COMPANY (AIR MOBILE LIGHT), distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in action against a hostile force on 26 June 1964. While in direct support of a Republic of Vietnam military ground operation, the 114TH AVIATION COMPANY conducted eight aerial assaults into known enemy dominated territory, continually being exposed to intensive hostile fire. The quick and courageous reaction by members of the unit in rescuing crews of downed aircraft was demonstrated twice during the day. The Vietnamese and United States Air Force Pilots of a T-28 shot down by insurgent fire were rescued as the enemy approached 300 meters distant in an attempt to capture them. Intense automatic insurgents' fire later disabled a unit helicopter causing it to crash with the subsequent loss of life of two of the crew. Again the personnel of the 114TH AVIATION COM-

PANY affected a rescue of the survivors and evacuation of the deceased even though constantly drawing deadly hostile ground fire. Over 123 combat assault hours were flown during the day with two aircraft hit, and one lost to enemy ground fire. Two members of the company gallantly and unhesitatingly made the supreme sacrifice and two were seriously injured. 640 combat troops were airlifted into the combat area for actions against the Viet Cong. Numerous medical evacuation and resupply missions were conducted throughout the day in conjunction with the combat assaults. The men of the 114TH AVIATION COMPANY served gallantly in the face of grave danger and death. To effect a highly successful government forces victory. The courageous manner in which the men of the 114TH AVIATION COMPANY contributed support to help the Vietnamese Government forces achieve victory gave added esprit de corps to the Vietnamese soldier. Their efforts and lives were given so that the ideals of freedom could be won for the Vietnamese of the future. Such selfless heroic actions reflect great credit on the individuals, the 114TH AVIATION COMPANY and the United States Army.

III. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION. 1. 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 unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

The 3D FIELD HOSPITAL distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam from May 1965 to November 1965. The quick and highly efficient manner in which the unit converted a school into a complete hospital is typical of the type of leadership which was constantly displayed by the officers. The initiative and ingenuity used in converting classrooms to surgical suites and wards, with the minimum equipment, demonstrates the ingenuity and pride displayed by the men in performing their mission. During this period the hospital admitted over 2,400 patients, with a total number of patient care days exceeding 10,000. Through their perseverance, professional skill and willingness to work far beyond those normally expected duty hours, month after month, the highest standard of medical care was provided this large number of patients. The members of the hospital demonstrated skill and determination by rendering continuous treatment while preparing over 1,100 patients for air evacuation. The professional competence, devotion to duty and esprit de corps displayed by members of the 3D FIELD HOSPITAL during this critical period reflects great credit upon themselves and the military service of the United States.

2. 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 unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

The Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the 22D FINANCE DISBURSING SECTION for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from July 1965 to December 1965 in support of operations in the Republic of Vietnam. During this period, personnel of

the 22D FINANCE DISBURSING SECTION computed and paid as many as 20,000 regular monthly vouchers when their recognized capability was 10,500 regular military pay vouchers per month. Operating out of tents with inadequate lighting, inferior equipment, crowded accommodations, and hampered by monsoon rain and power failures, the 22D FINANCE DISBURSING SECTION never failed to provide efficient and timely service. Because of their spirited enthusiasm and devotion to duty, the personnel of the 22D FINANCE DISBURSING SECTION worked from seventy to eighty hours per week to accomplish their mission. Throughout this entire period of time, they had no absences without leave, no convictions by courts-martial, and no punishments under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice. The exemplary performance of the 22D FINANCE DISBURSING SECTION was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon its officers and enlisted men and the United States Army.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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