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I.—THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following unit of the Armed Forces of the United States is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson 19 May 1967, 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 awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) for extraordinary heroism to:

THE 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces in Binh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam during the period June to July 1966. On 8 June 1966, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry was moving north along Highway 13 to the vicinity of An Loc to conduct area reconnaissance and offensive operations. The lead tank was hit by a command detonated mine which was the signal for three Viet Cong battalions to open a full-scale attack from both sides of the road. The three Viet Cong battalions occupied defensive fortifications and were heavily equipped with recoilless rifles, automatic weapons and a variety of small arms. Troop A immediately closed with the insurgent force in a fierce assault. Maneuver room was limited due to marshy terrain on either side of the highway. Continuous, multi-direction assaults were attempted by the desperate insurgent forces, but in each case they were halted by accurate tank, automatic, and individual weapons fire. With an indomitable fighting spirit, continuous fire and movement was used to steadily close on the insurgent force. The courageous fighting of the cavalrymen routed the Viet Cong from their emplacements. The gallant actions of Troop A in this six-hour battle was an eminent success. In addition, the armed helicopters of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, the supporting artillery, and Air Force fighter aircraft contributed immeasurably to the success of the battle by bringing devastating fire on the Viet Cong. The actions resulted in a count of 105 insurgents killed and a large number of Viet Cong weapons captured. On the morning of 30 June 1966, Troops B and C were conducting armed reconnaissance north of An Loc on Highway 13, when they were struck by a Viet Cong regiment. The insurgent force poured a volume of mortar, recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire into the column from the front and two sides. Fire was immediately returned by the Squadron, engaging the Viet Cong at point-blank range. The insurgents, concealed next to the road, made repeated attempts to overrun the Squadron by use of hand grenades at close range, point-blank firing, and fanatical assaults. Maneuver by the cavalrymen was again severely hampered by dense brush and marshy soil and they were forced to conduct their fight from extremely vulnerable positions. Although four platoon leaders were killed or wounded in the first hour, the gallant stand of the cavalrymen resulted in total defeat of the hostile force, whose scattered survivors fled from the battlefield. On the morning of 9 July, the Squadron's B, C, and D troops deployed southwest of An Loc to lure the insurgents into contact. The reinforced Viet Cong regiment, again covered in the heavy growth along the road, launched a powerful attack under the cover of intense mortar, small arms, automatic weapons, and grenades and .50 caliber machine-gun fire. The intensity of the three-hour fight equaled the two earlier and

longer engagements. The lack of proximate landing zones for the infantry delayed the planned reinforcement and required the Squadron to bear the entire force of the numerically superior insurgent force attack for two hours. The cavalymen with immediately responsive and continuous support by air and artillery, heroically stood their ground and broke the Viet Cong attack. The determination displayed by the 1st Squadron, 4th United States Cavalry during the three decisive battles of operation El Paso II resulted in significant victories. The Squadron's indomitable courage resulted in 712 confirmed hostile dead, and estimated 850 additional killed, and large quantities of captured weapons and equipment. The conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon all who participated in these significant battles.

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 Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam 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 1ST PLATOON, 395TH REGIONAL FORCE COMPANY

for extraordinary heroism:

The 1st Platoon of the 395th Regional Force Company, a unit of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam, distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in combat in the vicinity of Chau Thanh Hamlet, Hoa An Village, Vinh Binh Province, Republic of Vietnam on 25 April 1966. The 1st Platoon of the 395th Regional Force Company, a separate platoon on detached duty, was assigned the defense of the southern side of Chau Thanh Hamlet as part of the overall defense of the important district town of Cau Ke. At 1330 hours on 25 April 1966, understrength with only 22 men in position, the 1st Platoon was attacked by a vastly superior force, elements of a Viet Cong battalion. The overrunning of this platoon's position was a critical phase in the plan of the Viet Cong battalion to seize the district town of Cau Ke. The 1st Platoon of the 395th Regional Force Company withstood repeated assaults, all of which were supported by mortar, recoilless rifle, and automatic weapons fire. During the critical initial assaults, before the arrival of friendly air support, the 1st Platoon was forced to defend its position without outside fire support since the enemy had advanced within the minimum range of the district 4.2 inch mortars. The gallant stand of the 1st Platoon, 395th Regional Force Company completely disrupted the Viet Cong attack. Had this determined platoon not been able to hold their position against the repeated assaults of a superior Viet Cong force, the important district town of Cau Ke would have fallen into the hands of the enemy. The dogged defense of the 1st Platoon, 395th Regional Force Company resulted in the death of 37 Viet Cong. A vastly superior force had been held at bay for 7 hours and a major enemy attack had been disrupted. The actions of the 1st Platoon, 395th 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.

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 services during the period indicated:

THE 8TH FIELD HOSPITAL and attached units:
 29TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT
 88TH QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT
 406TH MEDICAL LABORATORY (MOBILE)
 20TH PREVENTIVE MEDICINE DETACHMENT
 36TH DENTAL DETACHMENT

The citation reads as follows:

THE 8TH FIELD HOSPITAL and attached units distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period January 1965 to July 1965. Throughout the cited period, the 8TH FIELD HOSPITAL and attached units, provided outstanding medical support and hospitalization services to the United States Forces engaged in counterinsurgency operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Displaying a dedication of purpose, devotion to duty, and courage which are keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, the 8TH FIELD HOSPITAL reflects great credit upon the Army Medical Service, the United States Army, and the United States of America.

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 503D MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

The citation reads as follows:

The 503d Military Police Battalion distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service in support of military operations in the Dominican Republic from May 1965 to January 1966. Throughout this period, the members of this Battalion demonstrated fortitude, professional skill, courage, and outstanding devotion to duty in providing military police support to the Commanders, United States Forces, Dominican Republic, 82d Airborne Division, the 5th Logistical Command, and to the State Department of the United States. Despite the hazardous situations, often under hostile fire, the men expeditiously met each commitment. Cheerfully, willingly and competently they worked hours far beyond those normally expected, insuring that all combat elements through the Dominican Republic had the best military police support. Of particular merit was the manner in which members of the Battalion established and operated checkpoints to control the flow of vehicles and pedestrian traffic entering and exiting the United States Forces controlled lines of communications and International Security Zone, in order to prevent the flow of arms, ammunition and other items of contraband which could be useful to the rebel forces or harmful to the interests of the United States Forces. When called upon to assist in demilitarizing the rebel zone, members of the Battalion successfully performed what was probably their most delicate mission during the Dominican Republic operations, the escorting of 1500 armed rebels who had previously been members of the Dominican Armed Forces, from the rebel zone through the city of Santo Domingo. The outstanding achievements of this Battalion contributed immeasurably to the success of the significant objectives of the Organization of American States in the Dominican Republic. The professional competence, devotion to duty, and esprit de corps displayed by the members of the 503d Military Police Battalion during this critical period reflect great credit upon themselves and the military service of the United States.

3. 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:

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The citation reads as follows:

THE 608TH ORDNANCE COMPANY (AMMUNITION), distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services during the period December 1966 to March 1967. During this period, the 608th Ordnance Company (Ammunition) displayed from the continental United States, through France, to Ditton Priors, England; activated and operated a two hundred and ninety-five acre capacity ammunition storage site, and received and stored twenty-two thousand, five hundred eighty tons of ammunition. This feat was accomplished in spite of the most adverse weather conditions; a lack of suitable material handling equipment, and the absence of even the most elemental troop support facilities. Constant rain made the storage area almost impassable. Low temperatures, overcrowded and poorly heated billets, and the necessity to remain operational twenty-four hours a day for forty-nine days taxed the unit's stamina to the utmost. Throughout this period, the unit was completely responsible to the requirements of the "FRELOC" movement schedule, insuring that there were no delays that would adversely affect the movement of the ammunition ships. Their efforts were a significant contribution to meeting the "FRELOC" schedule for movement of the command stocks from France in time to permit closure of the "LOC" base by 31 March 1967, and compressed into the forty-nine days a task originally planned for execution over a period of five months. Despite the adverse conditions, unit esprit de corps remained exceptionally high. The manner in which the many difficulties encountered in the course of their mission were overcome, stand as a testimony to the extremely high level of individual and unit readiness and the status of training. The professional competence of the officers and men of the 608th Ordnance Company (Ammunition), their demonstrated devotion to duty, and their "can do" attitude stand as a shining example to all and reflect great credit upon the individuals, the unit, and the United States Army.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

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

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

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