

## GENERAL ORDERS

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HEADQUARTERS  
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	Section
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)—Awards.....	I
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION—Award.....	II
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION—Awards.....	III

**I. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY) 1.** Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following unit of the Australian Army is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 30 May 1968, 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:

**D COMPANY, SIXTH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN  
REGIMENT**

D Company, Sixth Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations against an opposing armed force in Vietnam on 18 August 1966. While searching for Viet Cong in a rubber plantation northeast of Ba Ria, Phouc Tuy Province, Republic of Vietnam, D Company met and immediately became engaged in heavy contact. As the battle developed, it became apparent that the men of D Company were facing a numerically superior force. The platoons of D Company were surrounded and attacked on all sides by an estimated reinforced enemy battalion using automatic weapons, small arms, and mortars. Fighting courageously against a well armed determined foe, the men of D Company maintained their formations in a common perimeter defense and inflicted heavy casualties upon the Viet Cong. The enemy maintained a continuous, intense volume of fire and attacked repeatedly from all directions. Each successive assault was repulsed by the courageous Australians. Heavy rainfall and a low ceiling prevented any friendly close air support during the battle. After three hours of savage attacks, having failed to penetrate the Australian lines, the enemy withdrew from the battlefield carrying many dead and wounded and leaving 245 Viet Cong dead forward of the defense position of D Company. The conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity, and indomitable courage of D Company were in the highest tradition of military valor and reflect great credit upon D Company, Sixth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and The Australian Army.

2. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by The President of the United States of America to the following unit of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 2 May 1968 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 2D BATTALION, 31ST REGIMENT, 21ST INFANTRY DIVISION. ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

The 2d Battalion, 31st Regiment, 21st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, distinguished itself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations in Chuong Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam on 4 September 1966. Employed as a heliborne reaction force during operation Dan Chi, the 2d Battalion inflicted a serious defeat on the enemy. Another ARVN infantry battalion was pinned down in an open rice paddy in a savage fight against a main force Viet Cong battalion reinforced with a local guerrilla company. The total estimated enemy strength was over one thousand men. The enemy was fighting from well-prepared log and mud entrenchments with mutually supporting fields of fire across open rice paddies. The 2d Battalion was ordered to move into the operational area to reinforce the sister battalion and attack along the friendly forces' left flank into the left sector of the objective. The enemy attempted to ward off this attack on their flank by placing additional troops into positions directly to the front of the 2d Battalion. Due to the increased intensity of enemy fire, the total deployment of the 2d Battalion required one hour and fifteen minutes. Upon completion of this deployment, rapid reorganization permitted the unit to attack almost immediately. Without the assistance of artillery, air strikes or armed helicopter support, the 2d Battalion assaulted across 600 meters of open rice paddies. Advancing upon heavily fortified positions, the 2d Battalion was engaged by six enemy machineguns. All organic support weapons were employed in the destruction of these positions. Now within 100 meters of the woodline, the 2d Battalion closed with the enemy in ferocious hand to hand combat. The pride, courage and determination of these brave soldiers, coupled with outstanding leadership at all echelons, routed the enemy from his positions, resulting in 105 enemy killed in action. The dedication and unit professionalism which characterized the performance of the Battalion was instrumental in the fierce and rapid destruction of the Viet Cong insurgents. The actions of the 2d Battalion, 31st Regiment, were in the highest traditions of all fighting men and have reflected great credit upon the unit and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

**II. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION.** The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to

**TWENTY-SIXTH MARINES (REINFORCED),  
THIRD MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

For extraordinary heroism in action against North Vietnamese Army forces during the battle for Khe Sanh in the Republic of Vietnam from 20 January to 1 April 1968. Throughout this period, the 26th Marines (Reinforced) was assigned the mission of holding the vital Khe Sanh Combat Base and positions on Hills 881, 861-A, 558 and 950, which dominated strategic enemy approach routes into Northern I Corps. The 26th Marines was opposed by numerically superior forces—

two North Vietnamese Army divisions, strongly reinforced with artillery, tank, anti-aircraft artillery and rocket units. The enemy, deployed to take advantage of short lines of communications, rugged mountainous terrain, jungle, and adverse weather conditions, was determined to destroy the Khe Sanh Combat Base in conjunction with large scale offensive operations in the two northern provinces of the Republic of Vietnam. The 26th Marines, occupying a small but critical area, was daily subjected to hundreds of rounds of intensive artillery, mortar and rocket fire. In addition, fierce ground attacks were conducted by the enemy in an effort to penetrate the friendly positions. Despite overwhelming odds, the 26th Marines remained resolute and determined, maintaining the integrity of its positions and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. When monsoon weather greatly reduced air support and compounded the problems of aerial resupply, the men of the 26th Marines stood defiantly firm, sustained by their own professional esprit and high sense of duty. Through their indomitable will, staunch endurance, and resolute courage, the 26th Marines and supporting units held the Khe Sanh Combat Base. The actions of the 26th Marines contributed substantially to the failure of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army winter/spring offensive. The enemy forces were denied the military and psychological victory they so desperately sought. By their gallant fighting spirit and their countless individual acts of heroism, the men of the 26th Marines (Reinforced) established a record of illustrious courage and determination in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

**III. 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 periods indicated:

The citations read as follows:

**HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM** distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the period February 1966 to August 1967. Since arrival in the Republic of Vietnam, the officers and men of Headquarters and Headquarters Company have given of themselves untiringly to support the free world military assistance forces in combatting communist insurgency. Upon arrival in the country, the unit personnel aggressively began to establish the base camp and develop its facilities and defenses, simultaneously beginning operations of a corps-level headquarters. Through the dedicated efforts of all personnel, the individual offices and sections were promptly organized to provide maximum command support and insure commencement of operations on the scheduled date. During this period, the assigned personnel coordinated and directed the efforts of free world military assistance forces in conducting such major operations as Operations ATTLEBORO, JUNCTION CITY, CEDAR FALLS and MANHATTAN. These multidivisional efforts have resulted in denial of enemy havens and strongholds, destruction of their political infrastructure and maintenance of the momentum of the counterinsurgency effort. Continually analyzing vast quantities of intelligence information and operational reports, numerous innovations in combat tactics have been de-

veloped and adopted. Working closely with subordinate units, all members of the organization demonstrated an outstanding ability to coordinate diversified activities and identify the basic elements of a number of difficult situations, forcefully initiating actions which overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Members of II Field Force Vietnam implemented medical assistance, civic action and civil affairs programs in conjunction with similar projects established by the Government of Vietnam. In addition to the tactical aspects, members of the headquarters have offered outstanding administrative services to the individual units under II Field Force Vietnam's control, devoting many hours to solving individual personal problems, thus increasing the morale of all concerned personnel. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, II Field Force Vietnam distinguished itself by excelling in all undertakings. The outstanding leadership, exceptional organizational talents and multiple achievements of the unit made a vital contribution to the cause of freedom in the Republic of Vietnam. The unit's outstanding service was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects distinct credit upon the personnel of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, II Field Force Vietnam and the United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2D LOGISTICAL COMMAND, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of military operations in Southeast Asia during the period 31 October 1965 to 31 December 1966. During this period, the 2d Logistical Command provided support to what was in distance the largest supply and maintenance operations in the world. Through the initiation of a computerized logistical supply system, roll-on/roll-off shipping operations, extensive maintenance support programs and effective supply management, the 2d Logistical Command demonstrated its ability to professionally accomplish the complex task of providing ultra-responsive logistical support to military forces in Vietnam which was in keeping with the highest traditions and reflects great credit upon the 2d Logistical Command, United States Army Ryukyu Island, United States Army Pacific, and the Department of the Army.

#### THE 504TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION (ARMY)

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The 504th MILITARY POLICE BATTALION (ARMY) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period September 1965 to July 1966. The members of this unit demonstrated extraordinary proficiency, fortitude and determination while providing military police support throughout the Vietnamese II and III corps tactical zones. Operating from twelve different locations, the battalion assiduously conducted traffic control, law enforcement, convoy escort, harbor patrol, and also guarded American consulates. In addition, the battalion personnel closely supported the buildup and deployment of major elements of three combat infantry divisions. Through judicious application of personnel resources, they consistently surpassed the highest expectations, including the staffing and operation of eight provost marshal offices. The selfless and unrelenting efforts of this unit were exemplified in its numerous contributions of time and equipment to local civic action and police activities. The perservance and dedicated devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 504TH MILITARY BAT-

TALION (ARMY) were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

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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