

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 73

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 27 November 1968.

	Section
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)—Awards.....	I
VALOROUS UNIT AWARD—Awards.....	II
VALOROUS UNIT AWARD—Award.....	III
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION—Awards.....	IV
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION—Revocation.....	V

**I. THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY).** 1. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) (First Oak Leaf Cluster) 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 18 October 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) (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for extraordinary heroism to:

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CAVALRY REGIMENT,  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), UNITED STATES ARMY

Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in action against a superior heavily armed enemy force in the village of Tan An, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 20 March 1967. Company A was given the mission to air assault into a landing zone in the Soui Ca Valley and then to move north to set up a blocking position. Landing operations were completed, and the company began moving towards Tan An with the 1st and 2d Platoons leading, the Command Group and Mortar Platoon following, and the 3d Platoon echeloned to the left rear. After moving approximately 400 meters over relatively open, sandy terrain, the entire company came under heavy enemy fire from a well-concealed, well-positioned force, estimated to be two companies of North Vietnamese. The 1st Platoon was the most heavily engaged element, having entered an open graveyard area only meters from a treeline of palms and the village of Tan An, where the enemy was positioned. Several of the men became wounded early in the fight including the 1st Platoon leader and the platoon sergeant. The weapons squad leader took charge with help from the platoon medic. As the platoon fought to stop a flanking movement by the enemy, the company commander called in supporting artillery fire. Although the Command Post Group was pinned down in the open area, the company commander maintained his position and began maneuvering his platoons. One squad of the 3d Platoon moved to the right flank of the heavily engaged 2d Platoon in order to halt any enemy movements on that flank. The 2d Platoon quickly gained fire superiority and began pivoting into positions on the right. The remainder of the 3d Platoon were positioned forward to reinforce the 1st Platoon. At this time aerial artillery from gunships of the 2d Battalion, 20th Aerial Artillery, became available and was deployed on the enemy positions. The Mortar Platoon was ordered to establish rear security for the unit, and, soon after positioning itself, began placing accurate fire from its 81-mm mortar on the enemy. Mean-

while, the enemy force, realizing that reinforcements were moving in, intensified its efforts on the 1st Platoon's left flank in a last-ditch effort to encircle the element. Several new men, experiencing their first combat action under fire, displayed courage and valor as they replaced others, who were wounded, and the enemy flanking movement was completely thwarted. The 3d Platoon successfully linked up with the 1st Platoon, and, with the added fire support and strength, the 1st Platoon extracted its wounded and shifted its positions to the east to establish a defensive posture with the remainder of the company. Close-in artillery support from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery, aided in the movement and the entire engagement. Although mortared during the night and harassed by sporadic sniper fire, the company did not regain contact and maintained its tight defensive perimeter until the following morning. A thorough search of the area revealed 50 well-built bunkers with overhead cover, of which 15 had cement casings. Equipment, supplies, and the size of the area gave evidence that a large enemy force had been opposing Company A. The manner in which Company A reacted, the number of instances of individual heroism, and the unit's ability to gain fire superiority and outmaneuver a numerically superior enemy force clearly indicates that Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, soundly defeated the enemy and turned what might have been disastrous defeat into decisive victory. Company A's actions reflect great credit upon itself, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, and the United States Army and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

2. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) 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, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson 18 October 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:

2D BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, 1ST BRIGADE  
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Composed of the following units for the periods indicated:  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company (19-22 June 1966)  
Company A (19-22 June 1966), Company B (21-22 June 1966)  
and Company C (19-22 June 1966)

AND TO

1ST BATTALION (LESS COMPANY A), 8TH CAVALRY  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) (for the period 21-22  
June 1966) UNITED STATES ARMY

The foregoing units of the United States Army distinguished themselves by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against a hostile force on 19-22 June 1966 at Trung Luong, Republic of Vietnam. During Operations "Deckhouse II" and "Nathan Hale," the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry and 1st Battalion (Airborne), 8th Cavalry, displayed gallantry and esprit de corps in defeating a well-disciplined, heavily armed and numerically superior enemy force. Operation "Deckhouse II" began in 19 June 1966 with a two-pronged, two-company airmobile assault south of Trung Luong conducted

by Companies A and C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry. As Companies A and C swept north, they encountered resistance from small enemy units armed with automatic weapons and repelled them without casualties. As Company C approached the village from the west, it was opposed fiercely by 2 platoons from the elite 18B North Vietnamese Army Regiment. On the morning of 20 June 1966, Companies A and C launched attacks to the north. The battle raged for hours with the enemy using anti-aircraft weapons in direct fire at point-blank range. Company B, recalled from other brigade operations, took casualties as they debarked the helicopters, but they immediately attacked the hill under cover of artillery fire. In actions bristling with individual deeds of extraordinary heroism, Companies A and B fought through the afternoon until nearly dark, when they withdrew to evacuate their wounded. At 1915 hours on 20 June 1966, Companies B and C were helilifted into a landing zone to the north. At this time the operation was redesignated "Nathan Hale." On the morning of 21 June 1966, Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, delivered covering fire from the north while Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, executed another assault on Hill 258. This determined assault and sweep operation neutralized the enemy force and Hill 258 was secured. Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, consolidated the objective while Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, moved south and southeast on two axes to link up with and reinforce Companies A and C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, respectively. Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), also launched a determined attack on the enemy on 21 June 1966. Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, made contact with Company C and closed in to their perimeter after an all-day foot movement from Hill 258. At 0430 hours on 22 June 1966, the enemy launched the most ferocious attack of the four-day battle. After 3 hours of fierce fighting, the enemy was finally forced to withdraw under intense fire with extremely heavy losses. At 0900 hours on the morning of 22 June 1966, Company A, 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry and Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, conducted an assault, seizing high ground to the south of Trung Luong. By 1615 hours these companies were in full possession of the key terrain. 23 June 1966 ended one of the longest and most fiercely waged engagements of the Vietnam War. The enemy lost 373 personnel by body count and estimate, along with 70 individual and 9 crew-served weapons. By comparison, the friendly forces lost 26 killed in action while 3 died of wounds. Throughout the four-day battle, the gallantry and indomitable spirit with which the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, engaged and destroyed the well-prepared, heavily armed and numerically superior enemy force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on all members of the Battalions who participated in this combat action.

**II. VALOROUS UNIT AWARD.** By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1, AR 672-5-2, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded the following named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the periods indicated: The citations read as follows:

**1. The 1ST BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY, 198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAN DIVISION** comprised of:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
Company A

GO 73

Company B  
Company C  
Company E

The 1ST BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY, 198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period 7 February 1968 to 11 February 1968 near the hamlet of Lo Giang (1), Quang Nam Province in the Republic of Vietnam. While conducting search operations to the south of the hamlet, Company C was pinned down by an extremely heavy attack from an enemy force of undetermined size. Company A immediately moved to assist the beleaguered unit, and, while approaching Lo Giang (1) from the north, the element came under a barrage of small arms, rocket and mortar fire which caused several casualties and forced the company to withdraw and regroup before launching a counterattack. Exhibiting conspicuous gallantry and relentless determination, the men in the lead element fought in place to cover the withdrawal of the remainder of the company and engaged the Viet Cong in savage hand-to-hand combat to halt the human wave assault that followed the mortar and rocket attack. Their inspired fighting temporarily repulsed the enemy, enabling the remainder of Company A to mount a counter-offensive which drove the enemy back into the hamlet. Concurrently, Company B arrived and pressed on with fury and force to assist Company C in repelling the communist aggressors. Fighting brilliantly, the three companies completely destroyed the hostile force. Their efforts resulted in more than 250 confirmed enemy dead, with evidence that an additional 300 dead or wounded were removed from the area. The men of the 1ST BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY, 198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

2. THE 10TH AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 10th Aviation Battalion  
48th Assault Helicopter Company  
117th Assault Helicopter Company  
129th Assault Helicopter Company  
130th Medical Detachment  
135th Aviation Company  
140th Transportation Detachment  
256th Signal Detachment  
258th Transportation Detachment  
279th Signal Detachment  
286th Medical Detachment  
296th Signal Detachment  
390th Transportation Detachment  
394th Transportation Detachment  
433d Medical Detachment

The 10TH AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period 1 June to 20 June 1966 near Dak To in the Republic of Vietnam. Charged with providing the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and Army of the Republic of Vietnam elements with direct aviation support during Operation HAWTHORNE, the men of the 10TH AVIATION BATTALION not only accomplished their mission in an outstanding manner but also personally dealt the enemy crippling defeats as a result of their superb air mobility, combat assault proficiency and devastating firepower. Throughout the operation, the unit's personnel flew more than 2,000 hours in performing over eight thousand sorties while airlifting in excess of eleven thousand troops and one million pounds of cargo. They conducted twenty-five combat assaults of platoon size and larger, and their meticulous attention to detail and technical expertise insured that there were no aircraft accidents despite the difficulties of hazardous terrain and severe weather. Through their exemplary determination, they contributed immeasurably to the overwhelming defeat of the enemy during Operation HAWTHORNE. The men of the 10TH AVIATION BATTALION displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**3. The 1ST PLATOON, BATTERY B, 1ST BATTALION, 84TH ARTILLERY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

The 1ST PLATOON, BATTERY B, 1ST BATTALION, 84TH ARTILLERY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 2 and 3 December 1967 in support of Special Forces Detachment A-341 in Bo Duc Province in the Republic of Vietnam. When the Bu Dop Special Forces Camp came under a heavy and sustained enemy mortar and ground attack, the crewmen of the platoon immediately returned devastating countermortar fires until they were driven from their howitzers by enemy fire which ignited the powder canisters. The resulting fires quickly spread throughout the gun positions endangering the lives of platoon personnel by detonating secondary explosions of stored ammunition. Although every man in the 1ST PLATOON, BATTERY B, 1ST BATTALION, 84TH ARTILLERY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION had been wounded, they courageously continued their defense by firing mortars and individual weapons. As the battle waned, the members of the two gun crews assisted in evacuating the seriously wounded and reorganizing the indigenous personnel into a tighter defensive perimeter. Their relentless determination and conspicuous gallantry were decisive factors in the successful defense of the camp. The men of the 1ST PLATOON, BATTERY B, 1ST BATTALION, 84TH ARTILLERY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**III. 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 Republic of Vietnam Army

GO 73

for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

**THE 102D ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, 10TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP**

The 102D ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, 10TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP, ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 30 and 31 January 1968 in defense of the Hoi An Engineer Camp, Quang Nam Province in the Republic of Vietnam. When the camp came under intensive mortar attack by two Viet Cong battalions during the early morning hours, the unit's troopers quickly manned their defensive positions and began pouring highly effective counter-mortar fire upon the communist aggressors. The determined foe accompanied their mortar barrage with a concerted ground assault, and the enemy force briefly penetrated the perimeter only to be thrown back by the men of the 102D ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, 10TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP, ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. Throughout the ensuing 30 hours, the Viet Cong made repeated attempts to overrun the encampment. Demonstrating exemplary courage and determination, the outnumbered engineer soldiers, many of them seriously wounded, remained at their posts delivering devastating fire upon the hostile elements. When the enemy realized the futility of their efforts, they tried to retreat, but the brave troopers of the Battalion detected their escape routes and pinned them down while mortar and artillery fires were called in on them. The Battalion's personnel then moved out on an assault against the remaining pockets of resistance, and their maneuver resulted in the total defeat of the enemy force. The men of the 102D ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, 10TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP, ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

**IV--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:

**1. THE 29TH ENGINEER BATTALION (BASE TOPOGRAPHIC) and assigned units:**

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
29th Engineer Battalion (Base Topographic)  
34th Engineer Company (Base Photomapping)  
95th Engineer Company (Base Reproduction)

**THE 29TH ENGINEER BATTALION (BASE TOPOGRAPHIC)** and assigned units, distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious achievement in support of military operations in the Pacific Command during the period 1 September 1967 to February 1968. The members of this unit demon-

strated exceptional technical competence, zeal and tenacity of purpose in producing and distributing maps and topographic intelligence data of excellent quality and in record breaking quantities. Through the application of dynamic leadership and exercise of individual pride, skill and initiative, this unit consistently produced and distributed map products which met the exacting requirements of tactical field commanders. The most notable accomplishment was the production of an entire 1:100,000 scale map series of the Republic of Vietnam consisting of 89 individual map sheets. A feat of this magnitude never before had been accomplished by a field unit of comparable size. The responsiveness exhibited by all operational and support elements is indicative of a spirit of service and dedication to duty rarely found in troop units not directly engaged in actual combat activities. They, have through their truly exemplary performance of duty and deep concern for the welfare of the combat soldier, contributed significantly to the successful conduct of actions which, by necessity, must rely upon the quality of the available tactical map coverage. The technical skill and devotion to duty displayed by members of the 29th Engineer Battalion (Base Topographic) are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

## 2. THE 587TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HELICOPTER AMBULANCE), UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND JAPAN

THE 587TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HELICOPTER AMBULANCE), UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND JAPAN, distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service in support of patient care for patients being medically evacuated from the Republic of Vietnam to United States Forces hospitals located in Japan from the period 1 May 1966 through 31 May 1968. The detachment had a unique mission of providing ambulance service to six hospitals because of impractical use of ground ambulances, due to narrow roads, congested traffic conditions, and long arduous rides. With only six UH-1D helicopters authorized for the detachment, the unit met the demanding requirements in an outstanding manner. The limited number of aircraft which required considerable maintenance did not preclude the unit from establishing the incredible high record of 7,404 patient movements in one month. Every individual worked consistently over 60 hours per week in order to accomplish the unit's critical mission. Especially noteworthy was the unit's resourcefulness, enthusiasm, and technical skill which insured that they maintained a 79.2 percent flyable status which is 7 percent higher than the level set by Department of the Army for the command, although the unit's aircraft were flown twice the Department of the Army Flying Hour Program. The detachment flew a grand total of 84,622 pounds of urgently needed medical supplies throughout the command during this period. Frequently, the flights were made during the night when conditions were far from being optimal; however, every flight crew reacted quickly and efficiently. Throughout the period, the unit flew continuously in marginal weather conditions, further magnified by the high density of air traffic from surrounding air bases. Helipads at each of the units were extremely confined and surrounded by many hazards which required the utmost in aviation skill by every pilot. The grand total of 64,748 patients moved without major incident is a tribute to the outstanding meritorious achievement of the entire unit and reflects great credit on every

## GO 73

member of the detachment, the Army Medical Service, and the United States Army.

### 3. THE 1ST BATTALION, 40TH ARTILLERY and attached units:

- 235th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar)
- 238th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar)
- 239th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar) (20 November 1967 to 5 June 1968)
- 240th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar) (20 November 1967 to 5 June 1968)
- 245th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar) (20 November 1967 to 5 June 1968)
- 250th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar) (20 November 1967 to 5 June 1968)

The 1ST BATTALION, 40TH ARTILLERY and its attached units distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 16 September 1967 to 5 June 1968. The Battalion's members demonstrated extraordinary diligence and tenacity in providing superb artillery support and countermortar intelligence for free world military forces operating immediately south of the demilitarized zone. Their devastating accuracy and responsiveness to the fire support needs of the maneuver elements were key factors in the overwhelming success of twenty major operations and thirty multi-battalion Lam Son operations. Although constantly subjected to enemy rocket and artillery attacks, the men of the 1ST BATTALION, 40TH ARTILLERY never faltered from their vital task of furnishing timely and effective artillery fires for ground forces of the United States Army, United States Marines and Army of the Republic of Vietnam. They exhibited versatility and stamina in expeditiously adapting to the ever-changing demands of the fluid tactical situation. Through their exemplary courage, peerless gunnery skills and total dedication to rendering the best possible artillery support, the Battalion's men significantly enhanced the effectiveness of the free world effort in the I Corps Tactical Zone. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 1ST BATTALION, 40TH ARTILLERY are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

### 4. THE 40TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION)

The 40TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 15 September 1966 to 31 July 1967. Demonstrating professional competence and relentless determination, the signalmen markedly improved the quality of communications service by installing more than 1,200,000 feet of multi-pair communications cable throughout the theater. Their initiative and resourcefulness enabled them to overcome the multitude of difficulties inherent in their operation and accomplish all assigned tasks in a timely and efficient manner. Applying their versatility and expertise to the complex and diverse communications mission, the men of the 40TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) strung cables on poles up the rocky slopes of Hon Tre Island, buried cable in the mud of the Mekong Delta, and plowed cable into the sand at Cam Ranh Bay. Their willingness to work long and arduous hours and to make great personal sacrifice in order to fulfill the requirements of their mission



earned them the respect and admiration of all supported commanders. In addition to their primary responsibility, the Battalion's personnel enthusiastically participated in an extensive Civic Action program which fostered greater understanding between the American soldier and the Vietnamese populace. Through their technical expertise, perseverance and total dedication to providing the best possible communications support, they contributed immeasurably to the free world struggle against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 40TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### 5. THE HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP

The HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 6 June 1966 to 6 June 1968. The detachment's members demonstrated perseverance, professionalism and resourcefulness in meeting the constantly increasing requirements for communications and communications support throughout the 40,000 square miles of hostile terrain that comprise the I and II Corps Tactical Zones. Faced with tremendous difficulties due to a shortage of trained personnel, they applied their technical skills and flexibility to overcome these problems and accomplish their mission in an outstanding manner. With total disregard for their own safety, the men of the HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP often traveled through enemy infested territory in order to furnish matchless signal support for all tactical operations. During the battle of Dak To, their establishment of a high quality communications system which enabled tactical commanders to react rapidly to the extremely fluid combat situation was a key factor in the overwhelming defeat of the communist aggressors. Further, their efforts throughout the enemy's TET Offensive insured the continued functioning of vital communications despite the critical situation which existed within their area of responsibility. Through their relentless determination, singular initiative and total dedication to furnishing the best possible signal support, the detachment's personnel materially advanced the United States' effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### 6. BATTERY B, 6TH BATTALION, 27TH ARTILLERY

BATTERY B, 6TH BATTALION, 27TH ARTILLERY distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 2 October 1966 to 10 September 1967. Operating in support of the 3d Marine Amphibious Force at the demilitarized zone, the Battery established an enviable record of combat effectiveness. On 20 February 1967, the unit became the first United States artillery element to fire into North Vietnam. The men of the Battery demonstrated professionalism and technical expertise in providing

highly responsive and extremely accurate artillery support during numerous combat operations. Their resourcefulness and determination were key factors in the devastating fire which they placed upon communist forces. During the 9-month period from October 1966 to June 1967, BATTERY B, 6TH BATTALION, 27TH ARTILLERY fired thirty thousand rounds in the I Corps Tactical Zone, inflicting heavy casualties upon the hostile elements. Through their exemplary courage, esprit de corps and total dedication to mission accomplishment, the Battery's personnel contributed immeasurably to the United States military effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of BATTERY B, 6TH BATTALION, 27TH ARTILLERY are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### 7. THE HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY, 2D BATTALION, 33D ARTILLERY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

The HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY, 2D BATTALION, 33D ARTILLERY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 11 June 1967 to 22 February 1968. Throughout this period, the battery's members rendered outstanding combat, personnel, logistical and technical support to the battalion and the Lai Khe Base Camp. Frequently supporting as many as nine artillery firing batteries simultaneously, they demonstrated an ability to respond quickly to all situations and a capacity to provide excellent service on short notice. Their professional competence and technical expertise were key factors in the overwhelming defeat of the enemy during Operations BILLINGS, PORTLAND and SHENANDOAH II and in the successful defense of the Lai Khe Base Camp during the North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong TET Offensive. The artillery fires which were planned and directed by personnel of the HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY, 2D BATTALION, 33D ARTILLERY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION greatly assisted the maneuver elements in destroying the enemy's capability and will to fight. Liaison personnel were constantly prepared to assist infantry commanders in the effective use of the devastating fire power which was controlled by the Battery's fire direction element, and their untiring efforts in coordinating the artillery support resulted in the saving of countless American lives and the infliction of severe casualties upon the communist aggressors. Through their exemplary courage, relentless determination and skillful employment of artillery resources, the Battery's men contributed immeasurably to the United States' mission in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY, 2D BATTALION, 33D ARTILLERY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### 8. THE 43D SIGNAL BATTALION (SUPPORT) and assigned units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment  
Company A  
Company C

3d Platoon, Company D, 36th Signal Battalion (1 April 1967 to 21 February 1968)

278th Signal Company (28 May 1967 to 31 May 1968)

The 43D SIGNAL BATTALION (SUPPORT) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 April 1967 to 31 May 1968. Demonstrating competence and a thorough knowledge of signal operations, the Battalion's members significantly upgraded communications in the II Corps Tactical Zone. They applied their technical expertise and resourcefulness to overcome the handicaps inherent in the rough terrain, an inadequate Table of Organization and Equipment and a lack of organic aviation to produce a sophisticated, reliable, high quality communications system within the Central Highlands. Through their pragmatic approach to solving local geographical problems, the men of the 43D SIGNAL BATTALION (SUPPORT) accomplished seemingly insurmountable tasks when they established effective communications links with units that were located in extremely remote areas. Indicative of their zeal and perseverance was their development of an Army Area Communications Operation Center which reported circuit/system outages and coordinated their rapid restoration. By their professionalism, extraordinary flexibility and total dedication to furnishing the best possible signal support, the unit's personnel contributed immeasurably to the United States' effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 43D SIGNAL BATTALION (SUPPORT) are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### 9. THE 228TH AVIATION BATTALION (ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER)

The 228TH AVIATION BATTALION (ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 April 1967 to 30 November 1967. Utilizing the CH-47 (Medium Support) Helicopter, the Battalion's personnel rendered outstanding support to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). As the prime mover for the division artillery, they provided the flexibility for raid operations and the rapid displacement of firing batteries, thereby enabling more responsive and effective artillery support for maneuver elements. The unit's members also served as the carrier of combat support and logistical loads, and, in this capacity, they carried more than 72 percent of the tonnage lifted by rotary-wing aircraft and over 35 percent of the passenger load. Further, the men of the 228TH AVIATION BATTALION (ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER) employed their Chinooks extensively in the combat assault role as a follow-up mass-delivery vehicle for additional troops following the initial assault. Despite operating in a combat environment under all conditions of weather and terrain, they compiled an unprecedented safety record of 20,259 consecutive accident-free hours. Their professional skill and dependability made them an invaluable asset to the Division. Through their uncommon versatility adaptability to the fluid tactical situation and total dedication to mission accomplishment, the Battalion's men materially advanced the United States' military effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and de-

GO 73

votion to duty displayed by the members of the 228TH AVIATION BATTALION (ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER) are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### 10. THE 701ST MAINTENANCE BATTALION

The 701ST MAINTENANCE BATTALION distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 July 1967 to 31 May 1968. Deployed throughout the 1st Infantry Division's 5,000-square-mile tactical area of responsibility, the Battalion's members demonstrated technical competence and extraordinary versatility in providing outstanding maintenance support for the Division. They operated simultaneously from fixed base camps and field locations, and their responsiveness to the needs of the fluid tactical situation was instrumental in the overwhelming success of the command. During the cited period, the men of the 701ST MAINTENANCE BATTALION completed more than eighty-five thousand diversified field maintenance repairs, an increase of 30 percent over the preceding eleven months. Their willingness to work long and arduous hours beyond the normal duty day, coupled with their ability to perform all tasks quickly and efficiently, enabled the Division to maintain an exceptionally high rate of equipment availability. During the battles of Loc Ninh and Bu Dop and throughout the enemy's TET Offensive, the Battalion's repair teams, with total disregard for their own safety, made repairs in the field, thereby ensuring that vital equipment was combat-ready. Through their exemplary courage, relentless determination and adaptability to all contingencies, the unit's men materially advanced the free world struggle against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 701ST MAINTENANCE BATTALION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**V...MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.** Paragraph 7, section II, General Orders Number 54, Department of the Army, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 38th Adjutant General Base Post Office, is revoked.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

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

W. C. WESTMORELAND,  
*General, United States Army,  
Chief of Staff.*

Distribution:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements.