

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 17

**HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 17 March 1969**

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**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 Armed Forces of the United States is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The award is for extraordinary heroism during the period 31 January 1968 to 10 February 1968. The text of the citation, signed by President Richard M. Nixon on 4 February 1969, 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:

**716TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION  
AND ATTACHED UNITS INCLUDING:**

**527TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY  
COMPANY C, 52ND INFANTRY**

**90TH MILITARY POLICE DETACHMENT**

**OF THE 18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE,  
UNITED STATES ARMY AND THE UNITED STATES  
ARMY HEADQUARTERS AREA COMMAND SE-  
CURITY GUARD COMPANY (PROVISIONAL)**

The 716th Military Police Battalion and attached units, although not organized for a tactical combat mission, were instrumental in the defense of Saigon during the Tet Offensive. The Battalion employed aggressive police and combat tactics with the utmost skill and dispatch. The use of preplanned rapid reaction forces against a highly coordinated enemy attack was a key contributing factor to the success of the operation. Within six hours after the initial enemy attack, over 800 members of the Battalion had been committed to action throughout the city. Although the Battalion was engaged with the Viet Cong in four major battle areas in Saigon, there were many small patrols in contact with the enemy in the streets, in buildings and on rooftops. Radio contact was extremely difficult, making command and control virtually impossible. However, the personnel of the Battalion acted promptly and aggressively, thus successfully delaying and pushing back the enemy until reinforcements arrived. Drawing from their vast knowledge of the city, the Battalion and its attached units planned and conducted counterattacks using every means at their disposal. By the timely employment of reaction forces, they were able to neutralize the Viet Cong attack on the United States Embassy and the Vietnamese Joint General Staff Headquarters. The continuous dispatch and routing of military police patrols

enabled the Battalion to respond quickly to requests for aid and drive off enemy forces. Even though the effort of the Battalion was fragmented, it did not lose control of the situation. And in addition, the Battalion was able to support the Vietnamese Army and National Police in successfully blunting an enemy main effort and preventing the reinforcement of Viet Cong units. In all instances, the personnel of the 716th Military Police Battalion and attached units defended all areas of responsibility and responded to enemy activity under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions, displaying the highest degree of gallantry and determination. The heroism displayed by all members of the 716th Military Police Battalion was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on the Military Police Corps and the United States Army.

2. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following unit of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 14 January 1969, 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 41ST REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS  
1ST BATTALION, 41ST REGIMENT  
3D BATTALION, 41ST REGIMENT  
3D TROOP, 8TH RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON  
ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The 41st Regimental Headquarters, 1st and 3d Battalions, 41st Regiment, and the 3d Troop, 8th Reconnaissance Squadron, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in action against a superior heavily armed enemy force in Van Dinh Thuong Hamlet, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam on 23 September 1966. At 0300 hours on 23 September the Regiment was attacked by intense 82mm mortar, 60mm mortar, and 57mm recoilless rifle fire. Moments later the perimeter received a heavy volume of enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. The enemy force, later determined to be a North Vietnam Army Battalion, attempted to penetrate the southern position of the perimeter only to be repelled by savage defense fire. This same force mounted a second attack and again failed to penetrate the perimeter. With the 41st Regiment's attention attracted to the south, the northern portion of the perimeter was assaulted by human waves of another North Vietnam Army Battalion. This attack was successful, and the perimeter was penetrated. Regimental forces became heavily engaged in hand-to-hand combat, with the attack halted by the Regimental Reconnaissance Platoon within 30 meters of the Regimental Command Post. The perimeter was restored, and the friendly forces held their positions until dawn. At this time the 41st Regimental Commander seized the initiative and counterattacked with the 1st and 3d Battalions and the 3d Armored Personnel Carrier Troop, 8th Reconnaissance Squadron. The counterattack, in conjunction with airstrikes, was successful and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy force. The action of the elements of the 41st Regiment in defeating the 7th and 8th Battalions of the 18th North Vietnam Army Regiment, a force equal to its own, ranks as one of the outstanding accomplishments

in the Vietnamese conflict and is in the highest traditions of the Free World Forces.

**II. 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 named 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 571ST MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HELICOPTER AMBULANCE)**

The 571ST MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HELICOPTER AMBULANCE) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 September 1967 to 30 August 1968. Exhibiting untiring perseverance and profound dedication, the detachment provided rapid and comprehensive medical evacuation support to elements located throughout the Republic of Vietnam. During this period the unit went through activation, oversea deployment and an in-country move with exceptional efficiency in mission accomplishment. In February 1968, the organization was deployed to the Hue/Phu Bai area, thereby becoming the only helicopter ambulance detachment in the northern I Corps Tactical Zone. Despite the inherent hazards of enemy fire, rough terrain and inclement weather, the group recorded nearly four thousand missions and evacuated over ten thousand sick and wounded patients with only six helicopters. As participants in operations in the A Shau Valley, the 571ST MEDICAL DETACHMENT displayed exemplary courage and indomitable fortitude in providing excellent evacuation assistance during hostile fire situations. Through its singular initiative, excellent judgment and outstanding technical skill, the detachment contributed immeasurably to the free world effort against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 571ST MEDICAL DETACHMENT 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 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, 3D BRIGADE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

The 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 November 1967 through 30 April 1968. Fighting a diversified enemy ranging from hamlet guerrillas and main force Viet Cong companies to North Vietnamese Army regulars, the battalion maintained an exemplary record of halting communist aggression. The unit, which was under the control of six different brigades, was involved in numerous operations and moved on eight occasions over an area of nine hundred kilometers. Major displacements of the group's field trains further complicated mission achievement and a personnel turnover affecting every command and principal staff position added to operational problems. Despite these hindrances, the 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, performed all combat actions at peak efficiency, killing 716 enemy and capturing 60 prisoners of war. In addition, the organization conducted activities with four Allied elements ranging from Popular Forces platoons to regular Army of the Republic of Vietnam elements.

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The victories resulting from these endeavors greatly stimulated self-confidence, morale and esprit de corps in the Vietnamese units. While establishing an outstanding combat reputation, the battalion materially contributed to the free world effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, 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 BATTALION, 7TH ARTILLERY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION and its attached unit:

Heavy Mortar Platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry

The 1ST BATTALION, 7TH ARTILLERY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION and its attached unit distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 November 1967 to 31 May 1968. Demonstrating technical expertise and relentless determination, the battalion members consistently provided outstanding artillery support for the maneuver forces of the 1st Infantry Division. During the joint North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong TET Offensive, they were called upon day and night to fire upon the enemy, and their responsiveness and flexibility enabled them to furnish supporting fires that were invaluable in turning back every enemy thrust. The men of the 1ST BATTALION, 7TH ARTILLERY, played a vital role in the overwhelming success of Operations QUYET THANG and TOAN THANG, rendering extremely effective fires in densely populated areas. Because of their uncanny accuracy, they were able to destroy enemy positions without damaging Vietnamese homes and villages. Whether supporting planned operations or reacting to a sudden, unexpected hostile attack, the unit's personnel exhibited a high degree of skill and professionalism in meeting all of the requirements of the fluid tactical situation. Through their dauntless perseverance, exemplary courage and singular resourcefulness, they materially advanced the struggle against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 1ST BATTALION, 7TH 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 7TH BATTALION, 8TH ARTILLERY, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP

The 7TH BATTALION, 8TH ARTILLERY, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 July 1967 to 1 May 1968. Relying on its vast resources of experienced and dedicated personnel, the unit continuously provided superb artillery support to United States and free world forces. Displaying exceptional versatility and unflagging determination, the unit members aggressively performed all assigned tasks and were instrumental in effecting the success of nine major combat operations. Braving extreme environmental hazards and dangerous combat conditions, the battalion repeatedly demonstrated an ability to react instantly and efficiently to tactical emergencies. In its vital offensive role, the unit faced tremendous coordination problems and logistical demands created by unusually wide separation of its batteries, yet continuously exceeded achievement expectations. With professional skill and unrelenting

effort, each individual worked long and arduous hours as the 7TH BATTALION, 8TH ARTILLERY delivered accurate fire support to every major ground unit within its tactical area of responsibility. Demonstrating remarkable foresight and rare adaptability, the members of the unit persistently overcame the support problems inherent during a period of rapid increases in the intensity and scope of combat operations. Through their keen judgment, peerless determination and selfless devotion to duty, these personnel greatly enhanced the overall success of the 54th Artillery Group and United States mission in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 7TH BATTALION, 8TH 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.

5. THE 11TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TERMINAL) and its assigned units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 11th Transportation, Battalion (Terminal)  
 117th Transportation Company  
 124th Transportation Company  
 329th Transportation Company for period 1 June 1966 to 31 July 1967  
 402d Transportation Company for period 1 October 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 1099th Transportation Company  
 267th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 275th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 380th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 472d Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 473d Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 481st Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 497th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 519th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 528th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 529th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 538th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 539th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967  
 628th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967

629th Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967

631st Transportation Detachment for period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1967

Saigon Army Terminal Ammunition Branch for period 1 October 1966 to 31 December 1967

The 11TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TERMINAL) and its assigned units distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 June 1966 to 31 December 1967. Demonstrating determined resourcefulness and professional competence, the men of the 11TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TERMINAL) accomplished their vital support mission of unloading and transferring cargo in the ports of Saigon and Cat Lai in an exemplary manner. Throughout this period they expeditiously handled one and a half million short tons of material while simultaneously conducting numerous combat amphibious support projects in the Mekong Delta. Through their initiative, perseverance and tenacity, the battalion 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 11TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TERMINAL) 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. THE 1ST BATTALION, 27TH ARTILLERY, 23D ARTILLERY GROUP

The 1ST BATTALION, 27TH ARTILLERY, 23D ARTILLERY GROUP distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 11 September 1967 to 31 July 1968. Displaying exceptional versatility and unflagging determination, the men of the unit supplied consistently superb artillery support to 4 United States Army divisions and 2 Army of the Republic of Vietnam divisions. Braving extreme environmental hazards and dangerous combat conditions, the battalion repeatedly demonstrated an ability to react instantly and effectively to tactical emergencies. In its vital offensive role, the unit faced tremendous coordination and logistical problems created by wide separation of its batteries, yet it continuously exceeded achievement expectations. With professional skill and unrelenting effort, each individual labored long and arduous hours as the battalion not only actively engaged in every major operation in its tactical area but brilliantly supported numerous operations in the IV Corps Tactical Zone. Further, astutely recognizing the importance of aggressive civic action, the members of the 1ST BATTALION, 27TH ARTILLERY conducted excellent medical assistance programs, contributed to high school scholarships and initiated several construction projects in the continuing effort to establish warm and lasting friendship between the Vietnamese and American people. Through their valiant performance of duty and selfless determination, the unit's members contributed immeasurably to the free world's struggle against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 1ST 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 42D ORDNANCE DETACHMENT (EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL)

The 42D ORDNANCE DETACHMENT (EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 October 1967 to 31 July 1968. The detachment's members demonstrated extraordinary diligence and tenacity in rendering superb explosive ordnance support to free world forces throughout the theater. Frequently exposing themselves to hostile fire, they often accompanied ground units to assure complete safety from hazardous ammunition items and communist boobytraps. Despite the enormous demands inherent during a period of rapid increases in the scope and intensity of combat activity, the men continuously insured timely and efficient disposal support. Saving countless lives, the personnel of the 42D ORDNANCE DETACHMENT (EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL) discovered and countered several methods of enemy employment of United States armament against friendly forces and additionally enhanced the combat capability of field units by devising and utilizing brilliant techniques of extracting jammed ammunition from critically needed weapons. They repeatedly displayed an ability to react instantly and effectively to tactical emergencies and never hesitated to volunteer personal assistance, especially during the TET Offensive. Through their singular resourcefulness, keen judgment and total dedication to mission accomplishment, the detachment's members contributed significantly to the free world struggle against communist intrusion in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the men of the 42D ORDNANCE DETACHMENT (EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL) 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 65TH ENGINEER BATTALION (LESS COMPANY D), 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The 65TH ENGINEER BATTALION (LESS COMPANY D), 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 22 February 1967 to 7 December 1967. Relying on its vast resources of experienced and dedicated personnel, the unit provided consistently superb engineer support for every operation of the 25th Infantry Division despite hazardous terrain and critical combat situations. Demonstrating exceptional versatility and uncommon perseverance, the men of the battalion reacted instantly and effectively to all tactical emergencies, performing frequently in their secondary capacity as infantrymen. They consistently overcame the myriad problems inherent during a period of rapid increases in the intensity and scope of combat operations, aggressively consummated all assigned tasks and established unprecedented standards of achievement for similar units. Due to their unsurpassed performance and commendable diligence, the 65TH ENGINEER BATTALION (LESS COMPANY D), 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION significantly enhanced the combat effectiveness of the 25th Infantry Division and attached units. Energetically organizing and coordinating material resources, the men achieved extraordinary results despite continual shortages and extreme weather fluctuations. Through their resourceful ingenuity, total dedication to mission accomplishment and unflagging determination to halt communist incursion, the unit members materially contributed

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to the free world struggle in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 65TH ENGINEER BATTALION (LESS COMPANY D), 25TH 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.

### 9. 86TH ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT) (ARMY) and its attached unit:

595th Engineer Company (Light Equipment)

The 86TH ENGINEER BATTALION and its attached unit distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 May 1967 to 31 July 1968. Demonstrating versatility and perseverance, the members of the battalion provided consistently outstanding combat engineer support throughout the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. Braving extreme environmental hazards and frequent hostile fire, they effected massive land clearance programs, upgraded and maintained three major highways and constructed numerous vital bridges, two critical advance airfields and two major cantonment areas. The men of the 86TH ENGINEER BATTALION aggressively executed all assigned tasks and markedly enhanced the operational effectiveness of allied forces throughout the area. They exhibited unusual judgment and stamina in expeditiously adapting to the ever-changing demands of the fluid tactical situation. Further, recognizing the importance of dynamic civic action, the battalion's personnel conducted excellent medical assistance programs, contributed to high school scholarships and initiated several construction projects in the continuing effort to establish warm and lasting friendship between Vietnamese and American people. Through their zealous leadership, organizational skill and total dedication to mission accomplishment, the men markedly 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 86TH ENGINEER 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.

### 10. THE HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 125TH TRANSPORTATION COMMAND (TERMINAL), and its attached unit:

Detachment 4, Table of Distribution Augmentation Unit to 4th Transportation Command (Terminal) for period 25 August 1967 to 3 March 1968

The HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 125TH TRANSPORTATION COMMAND (TERMINAL) and its attached unit distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 4 March 1967 to 3 March 1968. Relying on its vast resources of experienced and dedicated personnel, the members of the unit provided consistently superb assistance to the Saigon Port Authority, thereby significantly improving commercial cargo operations and harbor management. Additionally responsible for the discharge of all military shipments during July and August 1967, the men demonstrated keen foresight and singular imagination in the execution of these added responsibilities and continually



expedited the transfer of logistical supplies vital to free world forces. Their initiative during an extended period of local labor turbulence and their perseverance during the TET Offensive enabled them to effect the uninterrupted flow of critical military and commercial cargo. The members of HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 125TH TRANSPORTATION COMMAND aggressively performed all assigned tasks and displayed distinct mastery in all phases of terminal movement. Braving extreme environmental hazards and frequent hostile fire, the men repeatedly manifested an ability to react instantly and efficiently to tactical emergencies. Through singular resourcefulness, inspiring determination and administrative skill, the unit contributed significantly to the United States struggle in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 125TH TRANSPORTATION COMMAND 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.

#### 11. THE HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 159TH ENGINEER GROUP

The HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 159TH ENGINEER GROUP distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 November 1967 to 30 June 1968. Throughout this period the company's members provided excellent command and control for four construction engineer battalions, three separate companies and two engineer detachments with an area of responsibility of more than 1,700 square kilometers. They energetically implemented the United States Army Vietnam Lines of Communication program throughout the majority of the III Corps Tactical Zone, highlighted by the completion of Main Supply Route 25; to include the massive bridge across the Saigon River at Phu Cuong. Further, the men of HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 159TH ENGINEER GROUP directed the construction of the combat-essential road from Bear Cat to Long Binh, a tremendous accomplishment which involved carving the road out of a dense jungle region. Faced with the task of establishing the defensive perimeter of Long Binh, they completed the building of more than nineteen thousand meters of wire barrier, seventy-seven fighting bunkers, sixteen reaction force bunkers and nineteen thousand meters of access road in an exceptionally brief period of time. In addition to their engineering accomplishments, the company's personnel conducted a comprehensive Civic Actions Program which greatly enhanced the relationship between the Vietnamese people and the American soldier. Through their initiative, determination and expertise, they 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 HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 159TH ENGINEER 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.

#### 12. THE 159TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TERMINAL)

The 159TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TERMINAL) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 April 1967 to 30 December 1967. Relying on its vast re-

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sources of experienced and resolute personnel, the unit provided superb combat service support to the United States and free world forces operating throughout the II Corps Tactical Zone. Demonstrating exceptional versatility and unwavering determination, the members of the battalion reacted instantly and effectively to tactical emergencies during a period of rapid increases in the intensity and scope of enemy activity. Their exemplary performance of duty contributed immeasurably to the allied success in the coastal and highland regions and earned them the praise and admiration of field commanders. Energetically organizing and coordinating material resources, the men of the 159TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION achieved extraordinary results despite continual shortages and extreme weather fluctuations. Further, the unit was instrumental in planning the primary harbor complex at Duc Pho and in expanding the port capabilities and facilities in Qui Nhon which subsequently resulted in unprecedented cargo discharges. The members also furnished consistently superior logistical support to Marines deploying in the Demilitarized Zone. Through their singular resourcefulness, unsurpassed professional competence and total dedication to mission accomplishment, the men of this unit materially advanced the free world struggle in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by members of the 159TH TRANSPORTATION 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.

### 13. THE 191ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

The 191ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 12 February 1967 to 31 May 1968. The members of the detachment displayed uncommon fortitude and unswerving dedication as they provided exceptional and critical intelligence information to all supported units in a rapidly changing combat environment. Demonstrating phenomenal versatility, the men expeditiously met each commitment and rapidly adjusted to changing tactical situations. Although the unique and unprecedented capabilities of the division to dominate vast areas and to deploy rapidly anywhere in Vietnam imposed seemingly insurmountable demands upon the intelligence unit, these challenges were consistently and successfully met. With professional skill and unrelenting effort, each individual worked long and arduous hours to insure that all supported elements received superlative intelligence data and analysis. With trenchant foresight and rare adaptability, the members of the 191ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT, overcame the problems inherent during a period of rapid increases in the intensity and scope of combat operations. Their superb performance of duty greatly enhanced the overall success of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and earned them the praise and admiration of combat commanders. Through their keen judgment, peerless determination and selfless devotion to duty, the unit's members materially contributed to the free world struggle in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 191ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT, 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.

**14. THE 507TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT (UTILITIES)** and its attached units:

531st Engineer Detachment (Utilities)

553d Engineer Detachment (Utilities)

The 507TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT (UTILITIES) and its attached units distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 24 September 1967 to 31 May 1968. Demonstrating unusual versatility and exceptional perseverance, the members of this unit provided consistently superior construction, repair and utilities services to base camps and installations throughout the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. Despite limited resources and hazardous conditions, the men aggressively performed all assigned tasks and established high standards of achievement for units with similar purposes. During this critical period, they successfully completed more than fifty major construction missions which immeasurably enhanced the operational efficiency of allied forces throughout the area. Energetically organizing and coordinating material resources, the members of the 507TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT achieved extraordinary results in discharging duty responsibilities, despite intense enemy activity and extreme weather fluctuations. They repeatedly displayed an ability to react instantly and competently to tactical emergencies. Through exemplary courage, uncommon stamina and keen judgment in expeditiously adapting to the ever-changing demands of a fluid combat situation, the unit materially advanced the effectiveness of the free world effort in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 507TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT 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. NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION.** Award of the Navy Unit Commendation to the following United States Army units by the Secretary of the Navy for periods indicated, is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The citations read as follows:

**1. 1ST PLATOON, 220TH AVIATION COMPANY—**18 August 1965-23 August 1965.

**DETACHMENT, 3D PLATOON, 220TH AVIATION COMPANY—**  
18 August 1965-23 August 1965

**7TH AIRLIFT PLATOON, I CORPS AVIATION COMPANY**  
(PROVISIONAL)—18 August 1965-23 August 1965

For outstanding heroism in action against enemy Viet Cong forces during the assault and seizure of the Van Tuong Peninsula, Vietnam from 18 to 23 August 1965. Acting on the basis of intelligence information that a 2,000-man Main Force Viet Cong Regiment was located in the Van Tuong Peninsula and preparing to attack the Chu Lai airfield, the 7th Regimental Landing Team was ordered to assault the enemy force within ninety-six hours. In this short period of time, the 7th Regimental Landing Team completed planning to solve the complex problem of coordinating air, sea and ground elements in an envelopment of the enemy in an area opening only into the South China Sea. Conducting an overland movement with a combined amphibious and helicopter landing under mortar, machinegun, small arms, and recoilless rifle fire, the 7th

Regimental Landing Team, supported by Naval gunfire and Marine aircraft, attacked the hedgerows and slopes of the objectives and by evening had compressed the enemy into a pocket against the sea. Continuing their attack during the ensuing days, the force fought its way forward through a maze of caves, tunnels and fortified localities and over rugged jungle terrain to secure the peninsula.

In so doing, the attack thwarted an enemy assault on Chu Lai, freed the civilian population from the terror of the Viet Cong, and set an inspiring example for our own and allied forces. By their effective teamwork, aggressive fighting spirit and individual acts of heroism and daring, the men of the 7th Regimental Landing Team and supporting Marine aviation units not only achieved significant results, but, in doing so, exemplified qualities of courage and skill which were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Services.

The foregoing Army units were attached to and operating in support of the 7th Regimental Landing Team, United States Marine Corps, during the action cited.

## 2. AIRLIFT PLATOON, 52D AVIATION BATTALION

For extremely meritorious performance of duty and conspicuous intrepidity in action while service as military advisors providing helicopter support to forces of the Republic of Vietnam that were involved in combat operations against the insurgent guerrilla forces (Viet Cong), from 9 April 1962 to 30 November 1964. These units, operating from unprepared landing zones ranging from sea level to altitudes of 6,000 feet and flying over swamps, rugged mountains and treacherous jungle terrain, supported helicopter assault operations conducted by forces of the Republic of Vietnam against heavily defended enemy positions in the First, Second and Third Corps areas of operations. Often encountering extremely hazardous weather conditions, they supported daily operations conducted by the Vietnamese from unsecured landing zones which frequently exposed them to hostile fire at extremely close range. The heroic actions, courageous devotion to duty and exceptionally meritorious service of these highly efficient Marine Corps teams were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Airlift Platoon, 52d Aviation Battalion, U.S. Army was operating under Marine Task Element 79,3.3.6 (Formerly Marine Task Unit 79,3.5) during the period for which cited.

**IV. NAVY MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.** Award of the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation to the following United States Army units by the Secretary of the Navy for period 1 January 1968 to 3 June 1968, is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The citation reads as follows:

### THE 1ST PLATOON, 203D RECONNAISSANCE AIRPLANE COMPANY

For meritorious service from 1 January 1968 to 3 June 1968 while providing air support and visual reconnaissance aircraft to United States Navy intelligence operations in Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam. Displaying unflagging zeal and dedication, the 1ST PLATOON, 203D RECONNAISSANCE AIRPLANE COMPANY greatly increased the effectiveness of United States Navy intelligence effort in Binh Dinh Province. The pilots and

ground crews far exceeded all requirements in providing aircraft and pilots to the Naval Intelligence Officer at Qui Nhon. Despite aircraft shortages and personnel casualties, platoon personnel responded to all Navy requests with dispatch and exceptional skill. The manner in which they exceeded normal duty requirements and the understanding and support which they gave to the Navy were outstanding examples of joint service cooperation. By their exemplary performance, the officers and men of the 1ST PLATOON, 203D RECONNAISSANCE AIRPLANE COMPANY contributed significantly to the United States Navy's role in countering communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam, thereby upholding the highest traditions of the United States Armed Forces.

**V. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION. 1.** So much of Section III, DA General Orders 45, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the Twenty-Sixth Marines (Reinforced), Third Marine Division (Reinforced) and attached Army units, as reads:

Detachment, A-101, 5th Special Forces 20 January-31 March 1968  
Group.  
Detachment, 44th Artillery----- 20 January-31 March 1968  
Detachment, 65th Artillery----- 20 January-31 March 1968  
Detachment, 238th Counter-Mortar Radar 22 January-31 March 1968  
Unit, 108th Field Artillery Group.  
Detachment, 1st Platoon (Smoke), 25th 9 February-31 March 1968  
Chemical Company.  
544th Signal Detachment, 37th Signal Bat- 20 January-31 March 1968  
talion.

is amended to read:

Detachment, A-101, 5th Special Forces 20 January-1 April 1968  
Group.  
Detachment, 44th Artillery----- 20 January-1 April 1968  
Detachment, 65th Artillery----- 20 January-1 April 1968  
Detachment, 238th Counter-Mortar Radar 22 January-1 April 1968  
unit. 108th Artillery Group.  
Detachment, 1st Platoon (Smoke), 25th 9 February-1 April 1968  
Chemical Company.  
544th Signal Detachment, 37th Signal Bat- 20 January-1 April 1968  
talion. 20 January-1 April 1968

2. Section III, DA General Orders 45, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the Twenty-Sixth Marines (Reinforced), Third Marine Division (Reinforced) and attached Army units, is amended to add: "Forward Operations Base #3 (Khe Sanh), Command and Control Detachment (Danang), 5th Special Forces Group—20 January-1 April 1968."

**VI. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION. 1.** So much of paragraph 17, Section II, DA General Orders 48, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 34th General Support Group (Aircraft Maintenance and Supply) and its assigned and attached units, as reads: "Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 520th Transportation Battalion," is amended to read: "Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 520th Transportation Battalion."

**GO 17**

2. So much of paragraph 2, Section II, DA General Orders 1, 1969, pertaining to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 3d Battalion, 13th Artillery, as reads "during the period 1 December 1968," is amended to read: "during the period 1 December 1967 to 31 May 1968."

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.*

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