

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 43

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 7 July 1969

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I. 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 the following-named units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the periods indicated:

1. THE 8TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

The citation reads as follows:

The 8TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 September 1967 through 31 August 1968. Displaying exemplary professionalism and outstanding initiative, the officers and men of the unit vigorously applied and advanced the airmobile concept in providing excellent engineering support throughout the division. With dedicated efforts, they constructed strategic landing zones and fire bases in remote and inaccessible areas, improved vital airfields and supply routes, and destroyed numerous enemy bunker and tunnel complexes. During Operation PEGASUS, which was launched to relieve the Marines besieged at Khe Sanh, the members of the battalion quickly constructed a C123 airstrip and helped open and maintain route QL-9 by providing necessary equipment support and key technical assistance in airlift maneuvers. The courage and stamina of the battalion's members was also manifested in the rapid rehabilitation of the A Loui airstrip in the hostile A Shau Valley. Realizing the importance of civic actions to the ultimate success of the war effort, the personnel of the 8TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION initiated the construction of a large province school in Quang Tri City. By expertly guiding local Vietnamese personnel in the use of their own construction skills to complete the structure, the men of the battalion greatly enhanced the reputation of the American forces. Through their unrelenting perseverance and consummate knowledge of engineering concepts, the battalion's members 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 8TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon them and upon the Armed Forces of the United States.

2. THE 9TH SIGNAL BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The citation reads as follows:

The 9TH SIGNAL BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam

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during the period 19 December 1967 to 18 June 1968. In response to mission requirements, the members of the unit established and maintained a vital network of radio and wire communication systems in support of the division. The speed and efficiency with which the systems operated and the continuing high degree of reliability attested to the exceptional standards of performance demonstrated by the members of the battalion. In seeking to cope with changing tactical requirements, the battalion's personnel successfully blended the elements of several basic systems into one cohesive communications network. Despite the limitations of available resources and the adverse conditions of weather and terrain, the men of the 9TH SIGNAL BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION pioneered the development of a multichanneled communications system with capabilities for rendering simultaneous support to operations on both the land and waterways of the Mekong Delta. Through their initiative and perseverance, the officers and men of the battalion provided outstanding signal support to division fighting forces in every major tactical operation against Communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 9TH SIGNAL BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon them and upon the Armed Forces of the United States.

3. THE 24TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL (SEMI-MOBILE) and its attached units:

45th Medical Detachment
104th Medical Detachment

The citation reads as follows:

The 24TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL (SEMI-MOBILE) and its attached units distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 March 1968 to 31 August 1968. The members of this unit demonstrated extraordinary diligence, initiative and consummate skill in providing medical service to United States Army personnel and other free world assistance forces throughout the combat zone. The miraculous speed, efficiency and lifesaving measures executed by the entire staff enabled them to provide quality medical and surgical care for the immense number of casualties injured as a result of hostile action during the TET, May and August Offensives. Their incisive understanding of the great importance of superior medical care improved the treatment rendered to patients during mass casualty periods. In spite of the overwhelming requirements of their basic mission, the personnel of the 24TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL unselfishly utilized their professional talents during off-duty hours in an effort to raise the local health standards of the Vietnamese people in outlying areas by providing direct medical and dental aid. Manifesting rare dedication and expertise, the hospital personnel consistently furnished the finest medical support possible in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 24TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon them and upon the Armed Forces of the United States.

4. THE HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 41ST ARTILLERY GROUP

The citation reads as follows:

The HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 41ST ARTILLERY GROUP distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 29 April 1967 to 31 October 1968. During this period, the officers and men of the battery demonstrated dynamic leadership and exceptional foresight in exercising command and control of seven subordinate battalions and three separate batteries in support of various allied elements. Maintaining close liaison with maneuver commanders and insuring the utmost in unit readiness by demanding exacting standards of accuracy and responsiveness, they provided invaluable artillery fire during three major realignments of United States Forces in Binh Dinh Province. The outstanding initiative and unrelenting effort of the men of HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 41ST ARTILLERY GROUP were manifested in the key establishment of fire support coordination centers, in the fine supervision of in-processing and training of two newly-arrived battalions, and in the effective operation of a forward observation and target acquisition school. Realizing the importance of close cooperation by United States, Republic of Korea, and Republic of Vietnam armed forces working toward a common goal, the men of the unit initiated and directed programs which greatly enhanced the effectiveness of mutual artillery support. With professional skill and dedication to mission accomplishment, the organization's members 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 HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 41ST ARTILLERY GROUP are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon them and upon the Armed Forces of the United States.

5. THE 169TH ENGINEER BATTALION and its attached units:

43d Engineer Company
22d Engineer Detachment

The citation reads as follows:

The 169TH ENGINEER BATTALION and its attached units distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 November 1967 through 30 April 1968. Involved in some of the largest and most exacting land development projects in the theater, the men of the battalion demonstrated outstanding competence and effective utilization of all available resources in the successful accomplishment of their mission. With a concentrated effort manifested by meticulous attention to detail and increased technical skills, they greatly upgraded the roadways and traffic areas of Long Binh Post, thereby enhancing its operational ability. Their aggressive action and rapid response to critical requirements imposed by the TET Offensive was significant in providing immediate additional security for this same logistical complex. Realizing the importance of civic actions to the ultimate success of the war effort, the men of the 169TH ENGINEER BATTALION promoted much good will among the local populace by directing a vigorous civic action program in the support and improvement of a Vietnamese orphanage, in the ex-

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pansion of the Chieu Hoi Center at Tam Hiep and in the paving of roads through nearby villages in the area. With unrelenting perseverance, singular initiative and consummate knowledge of engineering concepts, the unit's personnel 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 169TH ENGINEER BATTALION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon them and upon the Armed Forces of the United States.

6. THE 815TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) and its attached units:

102d Engineer Company

643d Engineer Company

The citation reads as follows:

The 815TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) and its attached units distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 27 March 1967 to 27 March 1968. The officers and men of the battalion demonstrated exceptional foresight and technical expertise in providing excellent engineering support throughout the Pleiku area. Despite the extremely hazardous environment, the organization's personnel successfully completed vital priority projects which were characterized by a high level of professionalism. With unusual resourcefulness and application of sound construction skills, the men of the 815TH ENGINEER BATTALION overcame unique building problems inherent in the varied and unfamiliar terrain of the central highlands. Their determined efforts in the restoration and maintenance of major lines of communication and supply denied the Communists a tactical advantage and contributed significantly to the outstanding combat successes enjoyed by field commanders. Through their unrelenting perseverance, singular initiative and consummate knowledge of engineering concepts, the unit's members 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 815TH ENGINEER BATTALION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon them and upon the Armed Forces of the United States.

II. VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM. 1. The award of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm by the Republic of Vietnam to a unit of the United States Army listed below is confirmed.

2. The Cross of Gallantry with Palm has been awarded by the Government of The Republic of Vietnam for outstanding service during the period 18 through 25 August 1968 to:

DETACHMENT A-322, COMPANY A, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES
GROUP (AIRBORNE), 1ST SPECIAL FORCES

The citation reads as follows:

Detachment A-322, 5th Special Forces Group is an outstanding and battle-hardened unit, always highly displaying its brave and fighting morale. In the past, Detachment A-322, 5th Special Forces Group actively carried out its re-

sponsibility and achieved numerous triumphant victories, especially during the intense Viet Cong attacks on the Special Forces Camp at Kontum, 40 kilometers northeast of Tay Ninh, from 18 to 25 August 1968. In spite of being outnumbered by an enemy with superior firepower, the soldiers of Detachment A-322, 5th Special Forces Group worked calmly, side-by-side with the soldiers of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, gallantly fighting and repulsing all enemy assault waves and causing them severe losses. There were 191 enemy killed; and 25 crew-served weapons, 58 individual weapons and 2 signal radios were captured. With the outstanding victory mentioned above, Detachment A-322, 5th Special Forces Group has materially and effectively contributed to the counterinsurgency efforts in the Republic of Vietnam.

III--VALOROUS UNIT AWARD. So much of paragraph 2, Section I, DA General Orders 28, 1969, pertaining to the award of the Valorous Unit Award to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), as reads: ". . . in the Republic of Vietnam on 30 January 1968," is amended to read: ". . . in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 January 1968."

IV--MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION. 1. So much of paragraph 2, Section II, DA General Orders 66, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 25th Aviation Battalion and attached unit: As reads, "The 25th Aviation Battalion and attached unit: 341st Airfield Operations Detachment," is amended to read: "The 25th Aviation Battalion and attached unit: 341st Airfield Operations Detachment, for the period 2 April 1966 through 31 December 1966."

2. So much of paragraph 6, Section III, DA General Orders 31, 1969, pertaining to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 61st Infantry Platoon, 1st Infantry Division, as reads: ". . . during the period 8 April 1967 to 1 November 1968," is amended to read: ". . . during the period 15 February 1968 to 1 November 1968."

V--VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM. So much of paragraph 2, Section V, DA General Orders 31, 1969, pertaining to the award of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm to the 9th Infantry Division and its assigned units:

Is amended to add:

"Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 5th Battalion, 2d Artillery Battery C, 5th Battalion, 2d Artillery."

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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

Official:

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

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