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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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I. THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). 1. 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 Richard Nixon, 21 October 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

COMPANIES A AND C, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH INFANTRY

AND THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED UNITS:

MORTAR PLATOON, COMPANY E, 1ST BATTALION,
8TH INFANTRY

ADVANCE PARTY, 3D BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY

AND

ADVANCE PARTY, BATTERY B, 6TH BATTALION,
29TH ARTILLERY,

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY

Companies A and C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism on 25 and 26 May 1968 while engaged in military operations against a numerically superior hostile force at Firebase 29 west of Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. The men of this task force demonstrated unfaltering courage and the highest degree of professional skill in successfully repelling a massive combined artillery and ground attack by an estimated regimental-size North Vietnamese force, composed of elements of the 101st and 95th Regiments with the 120th Sapper Battalion attached. At 1730 hours, 25 May 1968, the firebase came under intense enemy artillery, mortar and rocket fire. The mortar platoon and the 106mm recoilless rifle crew immediately initiated counterfire. At 2000 hours, enemy sapper squads, despite heavy casualties, managed to destroy a section of the barbed wire perimeter. Once the defensive wire was breached and several key defensive positions were destroyed, North Vietnamese elements launched a three-pronged attack and swarmed into the perimeter, managing to take control of six friendly bunkers despite heavy resistance from Company C forces and members of two advance parties. Moving quickly to the aid of her sister unit, Company A sent a counter-

attack element to the embattled hilltop. The combined forces managed to halt the hostile attack. Even though vastly outnumbered, the task force fought bitterly all night in close quarters for control of the vital hilltop. As close-in artillery and airstrikes ravaged enemy forces that massed on the slopes outside the perimeter, the defenders of the firebase repulsed repeated enemy attempts to overrun their positions. Throughout the battle, the enemy rained hundreds of rounds of B-40 rockets, 75mm recoilless rifle and 100mm assault gun fire on friendly positions. With the coming of daylight, the enemy was forced to withdraw while suffering heavy losses from friendly fire. At dawn the task force launched a powerful counterattack which swept the hill of all remaining resistance and restored the perimeter. Through their fortitude, superb determination, and extreme devotion to duty, Companies A and C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry and attached units rendered a once-powerful North Vietnamese force ineffective. Despite the numerical superiority of the enemy and the loss of key defensive positions and many personnel early in the battle, the defenders of the firebase performed their duty in the highest traditions of the military service. Their gallantry and extraordinary heroism reflected great credit on themselves, their units 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 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 Richard Nixon on 28 October 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 RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

COMPANY E, 4TH BATTALION, 3D INFANTRY

11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES ARMY

The Reconnaissance Platoon, Company E, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in action against a hostile force near the hamlet of Phuoc Loc, Quang Ngai, Republic of Vietnam on 6 and 7 September 1968. The platoon of 27 men was conducting a combat sweep operation on 6 September when it became engaged with a battalion-size enemy force entrenched in fortified defensive positions. Exposed to the heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from the estimated 400-man enemy force, the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon gallantly fought against the numerical odds and established defensive perimeters. Maintaining their position integrity, men of the platoon, with complete disregard for their own safety, braved the heavy fire to bring their fallen comrades within the perimeters. Although under heavy fire and repeated attacks from the enemy, the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon valorously held their positions, directed

airstrikes and artillery fires on the enemy positions, and repulsed all enemy efforts to overrun their defenses. The platoon was able to engage the enemy force until reinforcements arrived during the early morning hours of 7 September. A sweep of the battlefield on the morning of 7 September revealed that the Reconnaissance Platoon had killed 48 enemy soldiers. Intelligence from captured prisoners indicated that the enemy force had suffered 88 casualties, rendering it ineffective as a fighting force. The Reconnaissance Platoon is credited with spoiling an impending attack on the city of Quang Ngai by discovering and inflicting heavy losses on one of the key enemy forces poised for attack, thereby sparing free world forces and the population of the city of Quang Ngai much loss of life, equipment and personal property. The heroic actions of the men of the platoon aided in the defeat of major enemy forces which had been poised for attacks on the major cities of Quang Ngai Province. The gallantry and devotion to duty of the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon, against numerically superior enemy forces, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

II. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION. 1. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, XXIV
CORPS AND ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, CORPS
ARTILLERY (PROVISIONAL)

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT (PROVISIONAL)

PUBLIC INFORMATION DETACHMENT (PROVISIONAL)

31ST MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT (ORDER OF BATTLE)

33D CHEMICAL DETACHMENT (CBR CENTER)

PROVISIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (CAR)

with citation as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, XXIV Corps (Formerly Provisional Corps Vietnam) is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the period March 1968 to October 1968. Since being activated on 10 March 1968 during a period of intense hostile activity, the officers and men of Headquarters and Headquarters Company have worked untiringly in support of the Free World Military Assistance forces in combating the Communist insurgency. Upon activation shortly after the fierce fighting of the Tet offensives, the unit personnel assumed operational control of all United States Forces in the Northern I Corps Tactical Zone. Through the dedicated efforts of all personnel, the individual offices and sections were promptly organized to provide the maximum command support and insure continuance of present operations and commencement of planning operations on the scheduled date. During this period, the assigned personnel coordinated and directed the efforts of the United States and Vietnamese forces

in conducting such major operations as PEGASUS, DELAWARE, THOR and SOMERSET PLAIN. These multidivisional efforts have resulted in denial of enemy havens and strongholds, destruction of their political infrastructure and support caches and maintenance of the momentum of the counterinsurgency effort. Continually analyzing vast quantities of intelligence information and operational reports, numerous innovations in combat tactics have been developed and adopted. Working closely with subordinate units, all members of the organization demonstrated an outstanding ability to coordinate diversified activities and identify the basic elements of a number of difficult situations, forcefully initiating actions which overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, XXIV Corps implemented medical assistance, civic action and civil affairs programs in conjunction with similar projects established by the Government of Vietnam. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, XXIV Corps distinguished itself by excelling in all undertakings. The outstanding leadership, exceptional organizational talents and multiple achievements of the unit made a vital contribution to the cause of freedom in the Republic of Vietnam. The unit's outstanding service was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects distinct credit upon the personnel of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, XXIV Corps and the United States Army.

2. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding services during the period indicated:

THE 106TH GENERAL HOSPITAL, UNITED STATES ARMY
MEDICAL COMMAND, JAPAN

with citation as follows:

The 106th General Hospital, United States Army Medical Command, Japan, is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of medical care for patients evacuated from the Republic of Vietnam during the period December 1965 to December 1968. Demonstrating extraordinary determination and dedication, the unit received, treated, and evacuated over 24,000 casualties from the Vietnam conflict, continually demonstrating outstanding professional competence and insuring the highest standards of patient care. The exemplary perseverance and devotion of the members of the unit were especially noteworthy during the several offensive campaigns, when the number of casualties received increased significantly, placing a tremendous burden on the capabilities of the hospital. Through adaptations of logistical and personnel requirements, the unit was able to continue to provide continuity of patient care. Significant among the many accomplishments of the hospital was the work performed by the Hospital's Special Burn Unit which received the majority of all military burn injuries from Southeast Asia. The care provided and innovative procedures developed resulted in a major decrease in the mortality previously experienced with burn injuries. The overall professional proficiency and dedication to duty demonstrated by the members of the 106th General Hospital in providing off-shore medical support for the military operations in the Republic of Vietnam are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect

distinct credit upon every member of the hospital and the Army Medical Department.

3. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding services during the period indicated:

THE 249TH GENERAL HOSPITAL, UNITED STATES ARMY
MEDICAL COMMAND, JAPAN

with citation as follows:

The 249th General Hospital, United States Army Medical Command, Japan, is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services by providing definitive medical treatment for patients evacuated from the Republic of Vietnam to Japan for the period December 1965 through March 1969. Using the personnel and equipment allocated to a TOE general hospital, the unit has clearly demonstrated its superior initiative and ability in providing services which would normally be expected only of a large class II hospital permanently stationed in the continental United States. The fact that the hospital began treating patients only thirteen days after its arrival in Japan clearly demonstrates the high esprit de corps and caliber of the hospital staff. The extremely low number of deaths, 0.2 percent, when compared with the large number of patients treated is indeed a mark of excellence to be envied by units with a similar mission. The grand total of 26,736 patients treated during such a short period of time is a tribute to the outstanding and meritorious achievement of the entire unit and reflects great credit on every member of the hospital staff, the Army Medical Department, and the United States Army.

4. 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 period indicated:

THE 245TH SUPPLY AND SERVICE BATTALION
AND ASSIGNED UNITS:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,
245TH SUPPLY AND SERVICE BATTALION

58TH SUPPLY COMPANY

185TH SUPPLY COMPANY

237TH COLLECTION, CLASSIFICATION AND SALVAGE COMPANY

339TH SUPPLY COMPANY

340TH SUPPLY COMPANY

541ST SUPPLY COMPANY

with citation as follows:

The 245th Supply and Service Battalion and assigned units distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding

services in support of military operations in Southeast Asia during the period 1 January 1967 to 31 December 1968. During this period, the 245th Supply and Service Battalion and assigned units provided personnel and equipment support to the Directorate for Supply Operations, 2d Logistical Command, which was responsible for providing ultra-responsive logistical support to military forces in the Republic of Vietnam. Additionally, the 245th Supply and Service Battalion and assigned units established a commendable record for a low disciplinary rate, high morale and numerous achievements. This performance was in keeping with the highest traditions and reflects great credit upon the 2d Logistical Command, the United States Army Ryukyu Islands, the United States Army Pacific and the Department of the Army.

5. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding services during the period indicated:

**THE 500TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP
UNITED STATES ARMY, PACIFIC**

with citation as follows:

The 500th Military Intelligence Group, United States Army, Pacific, is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of military operations in the Pacific Command during the period 1 January 1968 to 15 May 1969. The members of this unit demonstrated exceptional professional competence in providing timely and valuable responses to priority intelligence requirements related to the Vietnam conflict. Its performance was especially noteworthy in identifying United States prisoners and their locations in hostile territory. The Group also provide significant reporting on Communist China's capability to support North Vietnam which received praise from Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, United States Army, Pacific, during May of 1968. The Group's total output for 1968 was 7,754 intelligence reports, an increase of more than 2,000 intelligence reports over the annual production supported for the previous three years. Much of this increased production supported the United States military effort against North Vietnam. The unit responded with exemplary professionalism to National-level strategic intelligence requirements during 1968. The outstanding accomplishments and devotion to duty displayed by members of the 500th Military Intelligence Group are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit on themselves and the United States Army.

6. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding services during the period indicated:

**THE 406TH MEDICAL LABORATORY, UNITED STATES ARMY
MEDICAL COMMAND JAPAN**

with citation as follows:

The 406th Medical Laboratory, United States Army Medical Command Japan, is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding laboratory services in support of patient care for patients medically

evacuated from Vietnam to United States Forces hospitals located in Japan, developing medical research projects of vital importance to patient care, and operating the Pacific Command Whole Blood Program in direct support of the military conflict in the Republic of Vietnam for the period May 1965 through May 1969. The 406th Medical Laboratory is a unique laboratory, the only one of its kind assigned service and research missions and operational responsibility of the Pacific Command Whole Blood Program in the Pacific area. As a result of the buildup of United States Forces in the Republic of Vietnam and the movement of hospital facilities from the continental United States to Japan, the laboratory experienced a tremendous expansion of mission requirements. Although the laboratory was critically understaffed, most departments became operational on a 7-day-per-week basis and personnel worked consistently between 55 and 65 hours per week to accomplish the increased demands for laboratory service. The successful accomplishment of this mission is attributed directly to the selfless devotion to duty, skill, competence, professional knowledge, and whole-hearted cooperation of the members of the 406th Medical Laboratory. This is an achievement of great importance, since it reflects the quantity and quality of laboratory performance in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Personnel of this unit have truly distinguished themselves in contributing to the successful implementation and operation of the Pacific Command Whole Blood Program. Under extreme pressures, critical shortage of personnel and time limitations, they have responded with speed and efficiency to meet the increasing routine and emergency requirements for whole blood in the Republic of Vietnam. Through the ingenuity of laboratory personnel, a styrofoam insert together with a cardboard container was developed to facilitate shipment of whole blood to the Republic of Vietnam. This unit has directed medical research and development endeavors to the more complex disease problems affecting United States personnel in Southeast Asia and has established an illustrious record of achievements in the fields of science and medicine. Members of this unit have made significant contributions in developing new drugs and devising better methods of preventing, controlling and treating diseases prevalent in Southeast Asia. Successful accomplishment of the missions of the 406th Medical Laboratory is a tribute to the outstanding achievement of the entire unit and reflects great credit on every member of the 406th Medical Laboratory, the Army Medical Service and the United States Army.

III. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION. Paragraph 2, Section VI, DA General Orders 59, 1969, pertaining to award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) to the 716th Military Police Battalion and its attached units, is revoked.

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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:

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