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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (Army)—Awards----- Section I
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (Army)—Awards----- II

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, on 18 November 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

1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 5TH INFANTRY,

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

AND THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED UNITS:

1ST PLATOON, TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY

38TH INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG)

3D PLATOON, COMPANY A, 65TH ENGINEER BATTALION

1ST PLATOON, BATTERY B,

5TH BATTALION (AW) (SP), 2D ARTILLERY

5TH SECTION (-), BATTERY D, 7TH ARTILLERY

44TH INFANTRY PLATOON (-) (SCOUT DOG)

BATTERY A (-), 7TH BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY

The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division and its attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in combat operations against numerically superior enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 18 August to 20 September 1968. During this period, the 1st Battalion task force, through reconnaissance-in-force, ambush, counterambush and reaction missions, effectively destroyed a regimental-size enemy force and prevented the enemy from seizing the initiative in its "third offensive." The officers and men of the task force displayed outstanding bravery, high morale and exemplary esprit de corps in fierce hand-to-hand combat and counteroffensive action against well-disciplined, heavily armed and entrenched enemy forces. An example of the outstanding bravery and aggressiveness occurred on 21 August during a reconnaissance-in-force mission. The lead elements of Company C, 1st Battalion came under heavy mortar, rocket-propelled grenade, machinegun and automatic weapon fires. The company deployed against the enemy forces while the scout platoon protected the company flank and prevented reinforcement by a battalion-size enemy unit. Through skillful use of close supporting fires from artillery, helicopter gunship and tactical air, the officers and men of the task

force repulsed human wave counterattacks and defeated a numerically superior enemy force, which left one hundred and eighty-two dead on the battlefield. The individual acts of gallantry, the teamwork and the aggressiveness of the officers and men of the 1st Battalion task force continued throughout the period of prolonged combat operations, resulting in the resounding defeat of enemy forces in their operational area. The heroic efforts, extraordinary bravery and professional competence displayed by the men of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry and attached units are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves, their units and the Armed Forces of the United States.

2. 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 text of the citation, signed by President Richard Nixon, on 18 November 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
1ST PLATOON, COMPANY B
4TH BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY

The 1st Platoon, Company B, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in combat operations against a numerically superior hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 5 January 1968. While conducting a heliborne extraction near the Cambodian border and after the major portion of the company had been withdrawn, the 1st Platoon, Company B was taken under intense mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy adjacent to the pickup zone. Maneuvering quickly into a nearby treeline, the platoon hastily established a perimeter defense using the sparse cover available. Supported by mortar and direct fire, the enemy attacked with a company-size unit from the east, followed shortly thereafter by a human wave assault of another company-size unit from the southeast. Friendly artillery was called in to within 5 meters of friendly positions and airstrikes provided vitally needed support. Fighting brilliantly, the platoon witnessed the enemy launch a third attack, this time from the west. Surrounded, the men continued to deny the enemy victory in spite of a diminishing supply of ammunition and an ever-increasing number of casualties. Individual acts of bravery and superb leadership were numerous. After two and one-half hours of intense fighting, the enemy chose to break contact. Though the 1st Platoon with a strength of 31 men suffered seven killed and sixteen wounded, their courageous actions and fierce tenacity caused the enemy to leave 60 of its dead on the battlefield. The outstanding bravery and gallantry displayed by the men of the 1st Platoon, Company B, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry

against overwhelming odds reflect great credit on themselves, their unit and the United States Army.

II. 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 Thailand is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation, signed by President Richard Nixon, on 5 November 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
1ST COMPANY, ROYAL THAILAND ARMY
VOLUNTEER REGIMENT,
MEDICAL DETACHMENT
ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER PLATOON
AND
ARTILLERY BATTERY, ROYAL THAILAND ARMY
VOLUNTEER REGIMENT

The 1st Company, Royal Thailand Army Volunteer Regiment and its attached and supporting units distinguished themselves by displaying extraordinary heroism in action against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 20-21 December 1967. During this period the 1st Company was given the mission of conducting combat operations and revolutionary development support in Bien Hoa Province. Elements of the Viet Cong 274th Main Force Battalion and the 3d Main Force Battalion attacked the 1st Company on the night of 20 December. This attack was repulsed by the heroic Thai in a battle characterized by savage hand-to-hand combat with devastating effect on the enemy. By the unparalleled application of exceptional imagination, fearless courage, and unrelenting determination, the 1st Company succeeded in repelling three assaults by the superior enemy force. Although harassed by constant mortar fire, the valiant defenders aggressively engaged the enemy and inflicted heavy enemy casualties. Individual acts of heroism were numerous, and during the entire battle the company officers, through their superb leadership, provided an inspirational example to the rest of the company. The Thai victory deprived the enemy of one of its long-established infiltration and resupply routes. The aggressiveness, determination, enthusiasm, and exemplary courage displayed by the members of the 1st Company and its attached and supporting units reflect great credit upon themselves, the Royal Thailand Army, and the allied cause in the Republic of Vietnam.

2. 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 Republic of Vietnam is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation, signed by President Richard Nixon, on 5 November 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
3D AIRBORNE TASK FORCE
ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The 3d Airborne Task Force, consisting of the Task Force Headquarters and the 2d and 3d Airborne Battalions, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces in Operation Kham Jei 180, from 15 to 22 November 1967. On 15 November the 3d Airborne Battalion made a heliborne assault into the objective area, and on the following day secured a landing zone for the insertion of the 2d Airborne Battalion and the task force command group. Later that day, the task force commenced its move toward the objective, a strategic hill mass north of Dak To which was occupied by a reinforced North Vietnamese Army battalion. At first light on 16 November, as the battalions continued moving up the precipitous terrain, they came under heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a combat outpost. Due to the nature of the terrain and their strong defensive position, the enemy dominated the approach to the objective. However, the airborne soldiers were undaunted and made repeated assaults on the position. Finally, they succeeded in overrunning it after sustaining heavy casualties. The task force continued to attack upward and, approximately 500 meters from the top of the hill, made contact with the main body of the enemy battalion which also occupied a strongly constructed bunker and trench system. Fierce fighting ensued, but attempts to breach the position during the waning hours of daylight were thwarted by a determined, well-armed enemy. After consolidating its position for the night, a company probed the North Vietnamese defenses throughout the night. Through outstanding leadership and professional skill, this element was able to partially penetrate the enemy positions to gain vitally needed information. As the 3d Airborne Task Force was preparing to continue the attack at the break of day, the North Vietnamese counterattacked down the steep incline. The paratroopers fought viciously to maintain their position in the face of intense, accurate mortar, automatic weapons and small arms fire from the high ground. Under cover of tactical air and artillery support, the men then left their foxholes and moved up the steep terrain by fire and maneuver. After nearly five hours of heavy fighting, the intrepid soldiers gained the enemy's first line of defense. Pressing on to within one hundred and fifty meters of the mountain top, the two lead companies found themselves pinned down by withering mortar and automatic weapons fire. Indirect fire support was again used, but the enemy's deep foxholes and bunkers afforded excellent protection against anything but a direct hit by heavy artillery or bombs. Only extreme bravery and superb fighting skill carried the attacking forces into the final defensive positions where they defeated the enemy in hand-to-hand fighting. After nine hours of combat, the gallant soldiers occupied the strategic high ground that was defended by the North

Vietnamese at all cost. The determination, heroism and esprit de corps displayed by the men of the 3d Airborne Task Force are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on themselves and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

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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