

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 24

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 27 April 1971

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I. THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). 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, 25 March 1971, 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 ARMORED CAVALRY SQUADRON
ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
CONSISTING OF
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
AND SERVICE TROOP
AND
1ST, 3D AND 4TH TROOPS
AND
U.S. ADVISOR/LIAISON PERSONNEL

The 3d Armored Cavalry Squadron distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in military operations against hostile ground forces during the period 1 January 1968 to 30 September 1968. The Squadron engaged a Viet Cong battalion near the city of Pleiku during the Tet Offensive. Utilizing an imposing array of weapons, the enemy fought tenaciously in an attempt to occupy the city of Pleiku. The Squadron, by steadfast resolve and against countless odds, annihilated the enemy force. This lifted the siege of the city of Pleiku, and the 3d Armored Cavalry Squadron was able to resume to its normal mission of securing the U.S. 4th Division logistical lifeline between Pleiku and Kontum. The enemy then committed large forces in an effort to close a single existing supply route. The 3d Armored Cavalry Squadron engaged a most determined enemy to relieve the pressure of being isolated. In each encounter, the South Vietnamese cavalymen exhibited brilliant tactics under harrowing circumstances and inflicted prohibitive casualties on a numerically superior force. Elements of the Squadron spearheaded direct strikes against the 18th North Vietnamese Army Regiment in other major engagements in Binh Dinh Province and in the city of Phu My. The resulting enemy casualties together with the destruction of residual weapon supplies forced the North Vietnamese to flee the field of battle. Through their unyielding tenacity, imaginative tactics, and fierce determination the officers and men of the 3d Armored Cavalry Squadron achieved victory against insurmountable odds. Their demonstrated professionalism and extraordinary heroism under hazardous and adverse conditions reflect the utmost credit on them and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

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 (First Oak Leaf Cluster) is awarded to the following unit of the Armed Forces of the United States for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

THE UNITED STATES ARMY TECHNICAL ESCORT CENTER

The citation reads as follows:

The United States Army Technical Escort Center, then designated United States Army Technical Escort Unit, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious performance in support of Department of Defense efforts to equip and supply United States forces in southeast Asia with newly developed aerial mine munitions during the period 1 August 1966 to 31 December 1968. Because of inherent dangers to transportation facilities and the military and civilian communities during the movement of these aerial mine munitions which require continuous monitoring, the United States Army Technical Escort Unit was selected to escort these munitions within the continental United States, for test and evaluation and storage, and to southeast Asia for deployment. During this period the unit completed 543 escort missions by rail, highway, air, and sea in the aerial mines munitions program. By applying their specialized skills, training, and experience gained in 25 years of CBR materiel escort, personnel of this unit contributed immeasurably to the timely delivery of these unique munitions to the combat zone. In doing so, escort teams ably dealt with the hazardous nature of the munitions and the possibility of exposure to hostile fire. Members of the unit exhibited unusual devotion to duty, professional skill and disdain for personal hardship in the performance of their assigned mission while traveling in excess of four and one-half million escort miles and escorting over 40,000,000 pounds of munitions without an incident involving escorted material. The outstanding performance of duty by all personnel has brought great credit to the US Technical Escort Center, the United States Army, and the Armed Forces of the United States.

III. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). Section I, Department of the Army General Orders 69, 1969, pertaining to the award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) to the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, assigned, attached, and supporting units, United States Army, is amended to add: "Clearing Section, Company B, 4th Medical Battalion".

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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

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