

GENERAL ORDERS

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**I MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION (NAVY).** Award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Navy) to TASK GROUP 65.6 (ARMY LAND CLEARANCE GROUP) is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 9-9, AR 672-5-1 for the period 12 April 1974 to 22 July 1975. The citation reads as follows: "The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the Meritorious Unit Commendation to

TASK GROUP 65.6  
(ARMY LAND CLEARANCE GROUP)

for service as set forth in the following citation:

For meritorious service from 12 April 1974 to 22 July 1975 during clearance operations NIMBUS MOON and NIMROD SPAR, and Residual Force operations in the Suez Canal area, Arab Republic of Egypt. Operating with high international visibility under the tension of an uneasy truce and in the face of substandard living and working conditions, the personnel of Task Group 65.6 carried out their difficult and challenging mission with outstanding skill and dedication. After the Task Group provided intensive training and instruction to the Arab Republic of Egypt's Army officers on the tools and techniques of minefield clearances, there was a tremendous increase in the capabilities of the Egyptian Army to locate foreign ordnance, identify it, and render it safe. As a result of this superb effort and in cooperation with the forces of the Arab Republic of Egypt and other participating nations, assigned explosive ordnance disposal and salvage operations in the Suez Canal area were accomplished efficiently and expeditiously, contributing significantly toward restoration of a vital waterway and maintenance of peace in a troubled area. By their courage, perseverance, and unfailing devotion to duty throughout this period, the officers and men of Task Group 65.6 reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

/S/ J WILLIAM MIDDENDORF  
Secretary of the Navy

(So much of General Orders Number 12, 1976, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, as pertains to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Navy) to TASK FORCE SIXTY-FIVE for the period 3 June 1974 to 22 July 1975, is revoked).

**II. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.** By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 25 July 1963, the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action is awarded to:

Major *Frederic J. G. Caristo* (then First Lieutenant), Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism on 30 December 1966, as a member of the Studies and Observations Group, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. Major *Caristo's* mission was to accompany an extremely dangerous and sensitive United States prisoner recovery mission in the Ba Tu area of Cambodia, distinguish the Cambodians from the North Vietnamese, and act as an interpreter/translator during any ground negotiations. He was also charged with the security and maximum exploitation of the North Vietnamese Hoi Chanh (military defector) who would accompany the operation. The Hoi Chanh had provided the initial intelligence which prompted the operation, and had revealed two United States prisoners were being held in an isolated hamlet near Ba Tu. The objective area was secured by a reinforced North Vietnamese battalion, surrounded by several minefields, and contained numerous arms/explosive manufacturing shops and caches. The prisoners were being held in a hut bordered on three sides by minefields. Initial planning called for a "nap of the earth" heliborne assault inside the minefield next to the prisoner hut. At 1200 hours, 30 December 1966, the helicopters made their final approach. With Major *Caristo* aboard, the lead helicopter began inserting on the wrong side of the minefield. Major *Caristo* immediately exited the lead helicopter, and simultaneously the supporting gunships began their suppression fires into the minefield and surrounding area. The lead helicopter pilot, realizing his navigational error, left the landing zone and attempted to insert the assault troops on the opposite side of the minefield. After their initial surprise, the North Vietnamese defenders rallied and began to place intensive protective fires throughout the area. Major *Caristo*, realizing the danger to the prisoners, the possibility of their execution, and the fact that he was the only assault troop on the ground, began to move toward the prisoners' hut. With complete disregard for his own safety and realizing the extreme danger, Major *Caristo* ran fifty meters through the minefield and fusillade of intense friendly and enemy fire. He broke through the back wall of the designated hut, captured three occupants, and discovered the prisoners had been moved the previous night. The North Vietnamese unit was offering heavy resistance, and both sides were suffering heavy casualties. The assaulting United States unit had become trapped with a second minefield between them and the North Vietnamese defenders. Major *Caristo* saw the gravity of the United States troops' precarious situation. Again disregarding his own safety by exposing himself to intense small arms and recoilless weapons fire, Major *Caristo* began leading the way through the minefield. Under an increasing volume of fire, and after being knocked to the ground from the blast of a bangalore torpedo, he successfully led the assault elements through the minefield. The valorous action undoubtedly saved many American lives and allowed the assault to continue. Major *Caristo* returned to the hamlet to locate the prisoners and encountered a North Vietnamese soldier firing a 57 mm recoilless rifle into the rear of the assault elements. Major *Caristo* fired and wounded the gunner. As the assault unit continued their sweep activities, they discovered a number of bunker complexes. Those United States troops attempting to search the bunkers encountered booby traps and small arms fire which caused a

number of casualties. Reluctant to suffer further casualties, the United States troops began throwing hand grenades into the bunker prior to entering. Major *Caristo*, realizing there were many women and children in the bunkers, voluntarily entered several of them and saved many civilian lives by assuring the bunker occupants of their safety. Major *Caristo's* command of the Vietnamese and Cambodian languages and their dialects also allowed him to discover forty-six North Vietnamese who were attempting to "blend-in" with the Cambodian civilians. Major *Caristo* additionally provided translations of numerous documents which led to the uncovering of two large arms caches. Through his heroic and unselfish efforts, Major *Caristo* saved numerous United States military and noncombatant lives. Although the prisoners were not recovered, Major *Caristo's* valorous actions were the single outstanding factor of the operation and reflect great credit upon him and the United States Army. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

**III. SILVER STAR. 1.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Captain *Council J. Armstrong, Jr.*, (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, United States Army, for action on 30 March 1967, while a member of the Command & Control Detachment, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Republic of Vietnam. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1. (So much of Section VII, paragraph 2, General Orders Number 12, 1976, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, as pertains to the award of the Bronze Star Medal (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) with "V" Device to Captain *Council J. Armstrong, Jr.*, (then Staff Sergeant), for heroism during the period 28 March 1967 to 30 March 1967, is revoked).

Technician Fifth Class *Donald V. Mehus*, United States Army, for action on 11 December 1944, while a member of Company G, 394th Infantry. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

Sergeant First Class *Alvin J. Rouly*, United States Army, for action on 3 May 1967, while a member of III Corps, War Zone C, Republic of Vietnam. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

Platoon Sergeant *Jerry L. Weicht*, United States Army, for action on 22 June 1970, while a member of 3d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

Private First Class *Earl G. Woodworth*, RA 2256456, United States Army, for action during the period 1 October 1918 to 3 October 1918 in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in France. Authority for this award is based on Private *Woodworth* being cited for gallantry in action during World War I in Divisional Citations, General Orders Number 6, Headquarters, 91st Infantry Division, 27 January 1918.

**2.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Master Sergeant *Howard B. Lull, Jr.*, (then Sergeant First Class), United States Army, for action from 5 April 1972 to 7 April 1972, while a member of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Advisory Team 70. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

**IV. LEGION OF MERIT.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 20 July 1942, and Executive Order 10600, 15 March 1955, the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service is awarded to:

Lieutenant General *Shigeru Iiyama*, Japan Ground Self Defense Force, from July 1974 to July 1976.

**V. DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary heroism while participating in aerial flight is awarded to:

Captain *Bruce C. Bessor*, (then First Lieutenant), Infantry, United States Army, for action on 13 May 1969, while a member of the 219th Aviation Company, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

**VI. SOLDIER'S MEDAL.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded posthumously to:

Sergeant Major *Kenneth R. Foster*, United States Army, for heroism on 28 September 1976, while a member of the 63d Ordnance Detachment.

**VII. SOLDIER'S MEDAL.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, a Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Antonio Barrientos*, United States Army, for heroism on 6 September 1976, while a member of Company B, 15th Battalion, 4th Training Brigade.

Specialist Four *Lawrence W. Connelly, Jr.*, United States Army, for heroism on 7 February 1976, while a member of Headquarters Company, Headquarters Command, United States Army Engineer Center at Fort Belvoir.

Second Lieutenant *Charles M. Maffei*, Adjutant General's Corps, United States Army, for heroism on 15 June 1976, while a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Army Garrison-Pusan.

Private First Class *Dennis A. Seeton*, United States Army, for heroism on 1 July 1976, while a member of Company C, 2d Battalion, 504th Infantry, 82d Airborne Division.

Captain *Duane C. Stout*, Infantry, United States Army, for heroism on 11 April 1974, while a member of the United States Army Northern Warfare Training Center. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

Staff Sergeant *James Timbrook*, United States Army, for heroism on 30 January 1974, while a member of Battery B, 6th Battalion,

9th Field Artillery. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

**VIII..BRONZE STAR MEDAL.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, a Bronze Star Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class *Douglas J. Glover*, , (then Staff Sergeant), United States Army, for heroism on 28 November 1967, while a member of C & C Detachment, 5th Special Forces Group, Vietnam. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

**IX..ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL.** By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 2-18, AR 672-5-1, the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service is awarded to:

Colonel *Eduardo Littuma A.*, 17-0176882, Army of Ecuador, July 1975 to July 1976.

Colonel *Fernando Canedo A.*, Bolivian Army, January 1974 to December 1975.

Major *Norman E. Stark*, 4049, Army of Paraguay, August 1972 to August 1973.

Lieutenant Colonel *Milton Wanderley*, Brazilian Army, December 1971 to July 1976.

**X..AIR MEDAL.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942, as amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942, an Air Medal (Seventh Award) with "V" device for heroism while participating in aerial flight is awarded by the Department of the Army to:

Captain *Merlin H. Olson*, , Infantry, United States Army, for action on 24 September 1970, while a member of the Troop C, 16th Cavalry. This award is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 1-13, AR 672-5-1.

**XI..MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.** So much of Section II, paragraph 1, General Orders Number 22, 1976, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, as pertains to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, United States Army, as reads: "1st Battalion, 507th Infantry," is amended to read: "1st Battalion, 506th Infantry."

**XII..BRONZE STAR MEDAL.** 1. So much of Section IX, paragraph 1, General Orders Number 34, 1947, War Department, Washington, DC, as pertains to award of the Bronze Star Medal to Major *Amish J. Beattie*, British Army, during period 30 November 1943 to 6 January 1945, as reads: "Major *Amish J. Beattie*" is amended to read: "Major *Arthur J. Beattie*."

2. So much of paragraph 1, Section VII, General Orders Number 6, 1976, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, as pertains to award of the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device to Major *Lawrence J. McCollum*, , Field Artillery, United States Army, as reads, "25 September 1971 to 2 October 1972" is amended to read "23 September 1971 to 2 October 1971."

GO 5

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

BERNARD W. ROGERS  
*General, United States Army*  
*Chief of Staff*

Official:

PAUL T. SMITH  
*Major General, United States Army*  
*The Adjutant General*

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