

GENERAL ORDERS }  
 No. 40 }

HEADQUARTERS  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
 WASHINGTON, D.C., 21 September 1967

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)—Award.....	Section I
VALOROUS UNIT AWARD—Award.....	II
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION—Award.....	III

**I. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)** 1. 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 Lyndon B. Johnson on 4 August 1967, 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 2D BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY, 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE) AND ATTACHED UNITS:**

2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry  
 Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
 Company A  
 Company B  
 Company C  
 2nd Team, 3rd Radio Relay Unit  
 2nd Platoon, 173rd Engineer Company  
 Scout Dog Teams, 3rd Scout Dog Company, III Corps  
 Vietnamese Interpreters  
 Forward Air Controllers  
 Artillery Liaison Officers and Forward Observers from Battery A, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 319th Artillery.

The 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) with attachments, is cited for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force near Phouc Vinh, Republic of Vietnam, on 16 March 1966. The battalion was participating as part of a large force on a search and destroy mission sweeping a portion of war zone "D" during operation "Silver City", and had been in contact with small groups of Viet Cong during four days of operations in the dense jungle area. On the morning of 16 March the battalion was deployed in a defensive perimeter in preparation for resuming operations. At approximately 0700 hours a patrol from Company "B" had begun to move from its positions to initiate action against the enemy. At the same time, a resupply helicopter was descending into the landing zone located within the battalion perimeter. Suddenly the helicopter came under heavy automatic weapons fire from the enemy and was destroyed, and the jungle erupted in gunfire all around the defensive perimeter. The leading elements of the patrol were caught in this initial concentration of murderous fire. The Viet Cong forces, supported by a tremendous volume of automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire, attacked all around the perimeter. The enemy exerted considerable force at a point between Company "A" and Company "C" in an effort to effect a breakthrough

at this location. Personnel of the two companies, including the wounded, steadfastly remained in their positions, responded at close quarters with fire that was both deadly and accurate, and succeeded in breaking up the determined enemy attack. Maintaining continuous contact around the perimeter, the Viet Cong launched another strong attack to breach the defense. This effort was focused on the center and left flank of Company "B". Time and time again the Viet Cong charged the positions, but the indefatigable and determined paratroopers of Company "B" exacted heavy casualties and beat back the enemy attackers. Regrouping and concentrating their forces, the Viet Cong made a final assault on the flank of Company "C". This time the desperate Viet Cong ran forward in waves under the protective umbrella of a heavy volume of their supporting fires. Again, however, the gallant and resolute paratroopers repulsed the enemy, inflicting severe losses, completely disrupting his efforts to destroy the battalion, and forcing the Viet Cong to withdraw. Documentary evidence indicates that the attacking force consisted of the entire Viet Cong 271st Main Force Regiment, reinforced by two artillery battalions. A total of 303 Viet Cong dead were confirmed by body count. An estimated additional 150 were killed and numerous Viet Cong were wounded during the battle. The courageous and exemplary actions of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, in decisively defeating a determined, numerically superior, and well trained and equipped enemy force reflect great credit on the members of the unit and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army.

2. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by The President of the United States of America to the following unit of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 5 July 1967, 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 EIGHTH AIRBORNE BATTALION, AIRBORNE DIVISION,  
ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

The Eighth Airborne Battalion, Airborne Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force from 25 to 28 February 1966. During this period, the Eighth Airborne Battalion conducted several successful assaults against strongly fortified insurgent positions after other friendly units had failed in their attempts to defeat the hostile forces. In the first engagement, the hostile forces had repulsed a coordinated attack by two ARVN battalions. After the friendly battalions withdrew, the Eighth Airborne Battalion advanced in the face of heavy small arms, machinegun, and mortar fire across 800 meters of open rice paddy in an assault against the fortified hostile positions. In heavy fighting at extremely close quarters, the battalion routed the insurgents and forced them to retreat in disorder from their fortified positions, leaving many dead and wounded personnel and a significant amount of equipment on the battlefield. Two days later, in a second engagement at another location, the enemy, in dug-in and heavily fortified positions, again repulsed an attack by ARVN battalions. The Eighth Airborne Battalion was again ordered to attack across 2,000 meters of open rice paddy through

heavy flanking fire to seize the enemy position. In spite of heavy casualties, the gallant and determined paratroopers swept into the enemy positions and, in close combat, again defeated the enemy and forced him into a disorderly retreat. The next day an enemy force was located in well-entrenched positions along a tree line adjacent to a small village. When the friendly main attack was repulsed, the Eighth Airborne Battalion, initially in reserve, was committed to the attack. The battalion advanced across 500 meters of open rice paddy against intense enemy machinegun and mortar fire to assault the positions. After reaching the tree line, the battalion closed with the enemy and, employing small arms, hand grenades, and bayonets, forced the enemy to withdraw from his prepared positions, leaving behind many casualties and weapons. In each engagement, the Eighth Airborne Battalion was supported by minimal artillery and air support and had to rely almost entirely upon its light organic weapons and the valor, skill, and determination of the individual soldier and small unit leaders to accomplish its mission. The exemplary actions of the Eighth Airborne Battalion under these extremely difficult and hazardous conditions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military profession and reflect great credit upon itself and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

3. 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 Lyndon B. Johnson on 19 August 1967 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 CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) AND  
ATTACHED UNITS:**

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division  
 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade  
 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Brigade  
 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Brigade  
 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry  
 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry  
 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry  
 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry  
 1st Battalion (Airborne), 8th Cavalry  
 2d Battalion (Airborne), 8th Cavalry  
 1st Battalion (Airborne), 12th Cavalry  
 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry  
 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry  
 8th Engineer Battalion (Airmobile Division)  
 13th Signal Battalion (Airmobile Division)  
 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery  
     6th Battalion, 14th Artillery (175 Gun Sp) (Sep)  
     2d Battalion, 17th Artillery (105 How Twd)  
     3d Battalion, 18th Artillery (8/175 M)  
     2d Battalion, 19th Artillery (105 How Twd)

GO 40

2d Battalion, 20th Artillery (Aerial Arty)  
1st Battalion, 21st Artillery (105 How Twd)  
1st Battalion, 77th Artillery (105 How Twd)  
Battery B (Searchlight), 29th Artillery  
Battery E, 82d Artillery (Avn)  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Band, 1st Cavalry Division  
Support Command  
15th Administration Company (Airmobile Division)  
15th Medical Battalion (Airmobile Division)  
15th Combat Support Battalion (Supply)  
15th Transportation Battalion (Acft Maint-Sup) (Airmobile)  
27th Combat Support Battalion (Maintenance)  
11th Aviation Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
227th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter)  
228th Aviation Battalion (Medium Helicopter)  
229th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter)  
11th Aviation Company (General Support)  
17th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light)  
478th Aviation Company (Nvy Hel)  
26th Chemical Detachment (Cbr) (Abn)  
191st Military Intelligence Detachment (Division)  
545th Military Police Company (Airmobile Division)  
10th Radio Research Unit  
54th Infantry Detachment (Ground Surveillance) (RD)  
34th Quartermaster Battalion (Direct Support/General Support)  
70th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Army)

The 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile and attached units, distinguished themselves by outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 23 October 1965 to 26 November 1965. Following the attack on a Special Forces camp at Plei Me, in Pleiku Province, on 19 October 1965 by regular units of the Army of North Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was committed to action. The division was initially assigned the mission of protecting the key communications center of Pleiku, in addition to providing fire support both for an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) armored column dispatched to the relief of the besieged camp, and for the camp itself. The 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), having recently been organized under a completely new concept in tactical mobility, and having arrived in the Republic of Vietnam only a month earlier, responded quickly with an infantry brigade and supporting forces. Using air assault techniques, the division deployed artillery batteries into firing positions deep within enemy-held territory and provided the vital fire support needed by the ARVN forces to accomplish the relief of the Special Forces camp. By 27 October, the tactical and strategic impact of the presence of a North Vietnamese regular army division in Pleiku Province necessitated a change in missions for the 1st Cavalry Division. The division was given an unlimited offensive role to seek out and destroy the enemy force. With bold thrusts, elements of the division pursued the North Vietnamese regiments across the dense and trackless jungles of the west-central highlands, seeking the enemy out in his previously secure sanctuaries and giving him no quarter. In unfavorable terrain and under logistical and tactical con-

ditions that would have stopped a unit with less capability, motivation and esprit, the cavalymen repeatedly and decisively defeated numerically superior enemy forces. The superb training, unflinching devotion to duty, and unsurpassed gallantry and intrepidity of the cavalymen, individually and collectively, resulted in numerous victories and succeeded in driving the invading North Vietnamese division back from its positions at Plei Me to the foot of the Chu Pong Massif. There, in the valley of the Ia Drang, the enemy was reinforced by a fresh regiment and undertook preparations for more incursions into Pleiku Province. The 1st Cavalry Division deployed by air its men and weapons to launch an attack on this enemy staging area, which was 35 kilometers from the nearest road and 50 kilometers from the nearest logistical base. Fully utilizing air mobility in applying their combat power in a series of offensive blows, the men of the division completely defeated the numerically superior enemy. When the enemy finally withdrew his broken forces from the battlefield, the offensive capability of the North Vietnamese Army in the II Corps tactical zone had been blunted. The outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism of the members of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and attached units, under the most hazardous and adverse conditions, reflect great credit upon themselves, the United States Army, and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**II. VALOROUS UNIT AWARD.** By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1, AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award (First Oak Leaf Cluster) is awarded the following unit of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

The Valorous Unit Award is awarded by direction of the Secretary of the Army to:

THE 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION, 1ST AVIATION  
BRIGADE  
COMMAND AND CONTROL GROUP, HEADQUARTERS AND  
HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT  
155TH AVIATION COMPANY  
161ST AVIATION COMPANY  
170TH AVIATION COMPANY  
DETACHMENT, 219TH AVIATION COMPANY (4 AIRCRAFT AND  
CREWS)  
DETACHMENT, 498TH MEDICAL COMPANY (AIR AMBULANCE)  
(2 AIRCRAFT AND CREWS)  
DETACHMENT, COMPANY C, 228TH AVIATION BATTALION  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (3 AIRCRAFT AND CREWS)  
119TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

for extraordinary heroism:

The 52d Aviation Battalion, 1st Brigade, and the foregoing attachments distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force near Duc Co, Republic of Vietnam during the period 28 through 30 May 1966. This unit was operating in a North Vietnamese Army infested area with the hazardous mission of conducting helicopter assaults, providing suppressive fire on landing zone, resupplying and insuring aero-medical evacuation in support of ground forces of the United

## GO 40

States Army's 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division. At approximately 1100 hours on 28 May, lift and armed escort elements of the battalion conducted a helicopter assault into landing zone Ten Alpha. Friendly ground units were immediately pinned down by a numerically superior and well-equipped North Vietnamese force. As the troop carriers departed the landing zone, heavy enemy automatic weapons fire was received. Two unit aircraft were hit and rendered inoperative for further action. Repeated lifts providing badly needed reinforcements and ammunition were made throughout the day. During the conduct of these subsequent troop landings and overhead cover missions, the unit's helicopters continued to receive heavy automatic weapons fire which damaged two additional aircraft. In spite of the damage sustained, the aircraft were refueled, re-armed, and returned to action. The ground unit remained pinned down by superior enemy forces and an urgent request for ammunition was received after the hours of darkness. Successive resupply and aero-medical evacuation sorties were flown by the lift helicopters for the distressed forces throughout the night. At first light on 29 May the lift and armed escort helicopters resumed their hazardous missions of reinforcement, resupply and aero-medical evacuation. Again, each lift into the landing zone was met by devastating automatic weapons fire. On several different occasions the armed-escort pilots intentionally placed themselves between the heavy volume of enemy fire and the landing lift helicopters. In the process of one of these maneuvers, an armed escort ship was hit by heavy caliber enemy fire, burst into flames and was miraculously brought down in the landing zone. During the course of the day four more aircraft were hit. Three of these aircraft were totally destroyed and four crew members seriously injured. By 1800 hours Landing Zone Ten Alpha was secured and enemy forces were thoroughly defeated. The dogged determination, gallantry, and indomitable spirit with which the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion successfully accomplished all assigned missions in the face of violent enemy fire are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit on all members of the unit who participated in this remarkable combat action.

**III--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 unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

**THE 31ST FIELD HOSPITAL AND THE ATTACHED UNITS: 252ND DENTAL DETACHMENT (SERVICE) 9TH LOGISTICAL COMMAND (B), PREVENTIVE MEDICINE SECTION**

The 31st Field Hospital is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of military operations in Thailand during the period April 1965 through June 1966. The members of these elements demonstrated dedicated devotion to duty, sound judgment, and professional competence by providing the highest standards of medical, dental, and preventive medicine support in a most critical period and did much to contribute to inter-allied solidarity. Through the untiring efforts of these units, significant improvements were attained in all aspects of a medical program designed to provide command-wide services to inpatients and outpatients

and other classified sensitive projects assigned by higher headquarters. Their accomplishments included the completion of construction plans for additional hospitalization facilities which will decrease evacuations out of Thailand; the implementation of highly effective hygienic programs that insured a low incidence of tropical disease among United States military personnel; and provisions to jointly furnish medical care, assistance, and instruction to Thai nationals which materially enhanced relationships between the people of the United States and Thailand. The professional skill, diligence, and technical knowledge of the professional staff reflected in the high recovery rate of the United States military patients at the 31st Field Hospital. The professional acumen and unselfish actions displayed by the members of the 31st Field Hospital and attached units during this period reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the military service of the United States.

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 service during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the period November 1965 through July 1966. While serving as the First Senior Artillery Headquarters in Vietnam, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery initiated many original programs which were effectively put into operation and which subsequently set an admirable example for newly arriving artillery units to follow. Within the framework of a massive expansion of Free World Military Assistance Forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery played a major role in the judicious emplacement and tactical employment of newly arrived artillery which resulted in highly effective artillery support to those forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone. For Operation Jefferson and Van Buren I in the Tuy Hoa Area, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery provided the command and control nucleus for the first combined combat support coordination center in Vietnam. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery implemented and coordinated the I Field Force Vietnam's extremely successful harassment and interdiction program which included naval gunfire and direct air support in addition to artillery fires. Using keen judgment and working diligently, overpowering fires were brought to bear on the enemy, causing him considerable casualties and disorganization. With the advent of mobile counter-mortar radar systems in the Republic of Vietnam, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery used rare perception and skillful analyses in deploying the radar systems in an effective manner. The outstanding success of Mang Ho V, one of the largest operations conducted by the Republic of Korea Forces, was credited in great part to the utilization of these radar systems in countering enemy mortar fires. The personnel of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery have consistently demonstrated their exceptional leadership ability while fulfilling their varied and manifold assigned missions throughout the II Corps Tactical

GO 40

Zone. They have displayed a keen energetic ability to always accomplish the mission in an outstanding manner in the minimum amount of time. The overwhelming success of the artillery support rendered to Free World Assistance Forces in II Corps Tactical Zone has been due in great measure to the outstanding efforts of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery. In achieving such success by its courageous actions, incisive judgment, forcefulness, professional competence, and outstanding leadership and direction, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery has brought great credit upon itself, I Field Force Vietnam and the United States Army.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

HAROLD K. JOHNSON,  
*General, United States Army,*  
*Chief of Staff.*

Official:

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

Distribution:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements.