

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 10

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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I. 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 is awarded the following named unit of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam 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 1ST BATTALION, 52D INFANTRY REGIMENT
18TH INFANTRY DIVISION
ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

for extraordinary heroism:

The 1st Battalion, 52d Infantry Regiment, 18th Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, distinguished itself by outstanding performance of duty and heroism in action against an armed enemy in the "New Life" hamlet of Vo Xu, Binh Tuy Province, Republic of Vietnam on 21 March 1966 while defending the hamlet against a reinforced Viet Cong Regiment (approximately 1500 men) attack on their perimeter defenses. When the first assault was initiated by a numerically superior enemy force, the 1st Battalion without hesitation deployed, utilizing sound defensive techniques, to repel this massive assault and did so with such force, fury and determination that the enemy was forced to fall back, regroup, receive reinforcements, and renew their assault from a different direction. In the close savage fighting that ensued, the 1st Battalion continued to resist the enemy's penetration while under intense automatic weapon, .50 caliber machinegun, mortar and recoilless rifle fire, even though outnumbered by a 4-to-1 ratio and cut off from outside help except for artillery and air support. The Viet Cong, after being thrown back twice more in battalion and reinforced company-sized assaults during the next three hours, were eventually able to overwhelm a portion of the defender's perimeter and advanced to within a few meters of the Battalion Command Post, only to be driven back by the inspired fighting of the 1st Battalion. The 1st Battalion continued to fight effectively and bravely throughout the night against the overwhelming enemy force. At 0625 the Viet Cong were forced to break contact and withdraw to the south. Through the actions of the 1st Battalion, 52d Infantry Regiment, another page was written into the history of outstanding military endeavors and these actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

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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 periods indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

The Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded by direction of the Secretary of the Army to:

THE UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL SECURITY DETACHMENTS

Attached to the following commands:

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COM- MAND, VIETNAM	8 March 1965—31 August 1967
STUDIES AND OBSERVATIONS GROUP, HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM	8 March 1965—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM	1 September 1966—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE, VIETNAM	1 November 1965—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE, VIETNAM	1 April 1966—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AM)	1 December 1965—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION	1 December 1965—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION	1 October 1966—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION	1 October 1966—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION	1 January 1966—31 August 1967
HEADQUARTERS, TASK FORCE "OREGON"	1 April 1967—31 August 1967

The above-cited elements of the United States Army Special Security Detachment, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army, distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the periods indicated. Each element rendered exemplary service involving the security, dissemination, and protection of special intelligence and in performing duties of great trust and responsibility. The detachments consistently demonstrated an extremely high degree of initiative, esprit-de-corps, professionalism, and outstanding leadership. Throughout the Republic of Vietnam these elements of the United States Army Special Security Detachment, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army, provided immediate, continuous and highly responsible support to commanders and expeditiously disseminated and protected special intelligence for the supported commands.

Despite adverse circumstances these detachments provided continuous and highly reliable support of the United States counterinsurgency efforts in the Vietnam campaign. The professional competence, outstanding service, and devotion to duty of the United States Army Special Security Detachments are in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves 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 service during the period indicated:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Logistical Command and the following attached units: Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 52d Ordnance Group and 15th Military History Detachment distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in the Republic of Vietnam, in support of combat operations during the period 1 January 1966 to 31 December 1966. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Logistical Command was assigned the mission of organization, command and control of the total logistical effort in support of a massive build-up in the United States and other Free World forces. Operating with limited resources and under extremely hazardous and difficult conditions, this unit displayed outstanding devotion to duty in the prompt establishment of key logistical support bases at strategic sites throughout the Republic of Vietnam. This accomplishment assured the successful landing, deployment and support of numerous units and combat forces arriving in Vietnam during the period, including the 25th Infantry Division, 26th Regimental Combat Team (ROK), 1st Australian Task Force, 4th Infantry Division, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 45th General Support Group, 54th General Support Group and the 593rd General Support Group. Concurrently, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Logistical Command provided both general and direct support for many combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam, in all instances satisfying supply and service requirements and thereby assisting in the attainment of tactical objectives. The extraordinary contribution of this unit to the vital efforts of United States Army and Free World forces in the Republic of Vietnam during this period reflect the highest credit upon the supply and service structure of the United States Army and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Logistical Command. (The above citation awards the Meritorious Unit Commendation (First Oak Leaf Cluster) to the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Logistical Command.)

3. 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 United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

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THE 1ST ENGINEER BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
COMPRISED OF

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY	COMPANY C
COMPANY A	COMPANY D
COMPANY B	COMPANY E

The citation reads as follows:

The 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during combat operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 3 June 1966 to 15 April 1967. The many decisive victories gained by the 1st Infantry Division during these operations could not have been achieved without the herculean efforts of the 1st Engineer Battalion which, under extremely hazardous enemy conditions, hacked helicopter landing zones, constructed forward deployment airfields, and opened many kilometers of road in Viet Cong-dominated areas to establish the momentum of the division and then, to maintain this momentum, reacted time and again to counter the determined efforts of enemy demolition teams and the adverse effects of the tropical weather. During Operation El Paso, from 3 June to 3 September 1966, the 1st Engineer Battalion paved the way for the success of future operations by upgrading airfields at Quan Loi and Minh Thanh to receive C-130 traffic. Concurrent with this construction effort was the battalion's participation in Operation Amarillo from 23 August 1966 to 1 September 1966. After two days of relentless and untiring effort, 30 kilometers of heavily mined road were opened and rehabilitated. Because of tactical developments the 1st Engineer Battalion was ordered to assume the mission of the infantry battalions securing the convoy passage. The unit was quickly and efficiently reorganized as infantry and established a number of strong points along the road. Still organized as infantry, the Battalion repelled several attacks while defending a brigade command post, killing 8 Viet Cong. During the period, controlling an unprecedented 52-bulldozer task force charged with the mission of destroying the Iron Triangle, the 1st Engineers reshaped the face of this heavily mined and strongly defended Viet Cong sanctuary by demolishing 11 factories and villages, clearing 2711 acres of jungle, and destroying 9.4 kilometers of tunnels. The constant threat of mines and booby traps did not deter the courageous men of the unit. Special engineer tunnel demolition teams demonstrated extraordinary courage in searching and destroying Viet Cong-infested tunnels which yielded a rich harvest of valuable documents. During the operation, the 1st Engineer Battalion averted near catastrophe with an ingeniously conceived and brilliantly executed repair of a major bridge which reopened the only land route to the area of operations for movement of critical armor units and vital supplies. Accessible now by land over the 1st Engineer bridge at Ben Cat and by air at dozens of landing zones, and denuded of the protective jungle canopy and labyrinth of tunnels, the Iron Triangle will never again pose the threat to the safety of the entire region it once did. During Operation Junction City from 22 February 1967 to 15 April 1967, the Battalion supported the Division on another corps-size search and destroy operation aimed at eliminating the Viet Cong strongholds in the jungles of War Zone "C". Undaunted by small arms fire and heavy mortar attacks, the gallant men of the Battalion supported the operation by designing

and erecting Bailey Bridges to open land lines of communication and constructing three forward deployment airfields for C-130 aircraft in the rugged jungle terrain. The Battalion's heroic achievements and unfailing devotion to duty continued in effect during Operation Tulsa from 7 October 1966 to 15 October 1966. Over 40 kilometers of poorly drained road were scarred by numerous craters and soft spots, blown bridges, collapsed culverts, and water washing over the road from adjacent rice paddies. Road repair was made difficult by monsoon rains and further complicated by enemy harassing and denial operations. Superior organization and positioning of forces, delicate coordination, and the prestocking of large quantities of combat construction materials at strategic locations enabled the Battalion to quickly repair the deteriorating effects of the heavy convoy traffic on the rain-drenched road and the destructive actions of the Viet Cong. When the enemy destroyed a 30-foot bridge, the previously untested technique, of airlifting a partially preassembled M4T6 bridge, developed by the 1st Engineer Battalion was instrumental to the timely passage of a northbound convoy. Operation Battle Creek commenced on 5 November 1966 when elements of the 1st Division maneuvered to relieve heavy enemy pressure on friendly units. The Battalion established and maintained the momentum of the Division maneuver elements by opening 44 kilometers of road, repairing and placing 240 feet of culvert, constructing two fords, clearing 11 helicopter landing zones, and constructing five bridges. Rapidly reacting clearing teams with their preassembled kits containing chain saws and demolitions made the perilous descent from CH-47 helicopters by rope ladder to blaze clear areas in the dense jungle growth under sporadic and sometimes intense enemy sniper fire. During the period 7 January 1967 to 24 January 1967 the Battalion participated in Operation Cedar Falls. The 1st Engineer Battalion introduced a new concept of jungle warfare by using the bulldozer offensively along with advancing infantry. The outstanding results achieved by the 1st Engineer Battalion under extremely arduous and hazardous conditions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Corps of Engineers and the United States Army and reflect great credit upon all members of the unit.

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.

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