

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 46

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 3 September 1968

VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM

The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm which was awarded by the Republic of South Vietnam to the units of the U.S. Army listed below is confirmed. Vietnamese unit awards may only be worn on the uniform by personnel while assigned to the unit, unless the individual is specifically named in the citation.

1. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm awarded by Lieutenant General Nguyen Khanh, Commander-in-Chief, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 23 July 1964 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the periods indicated:

THE DELTA AVIATION BATTALION, and assigned units:

114th Aviation Company, for period 5 May 1963 to 30 June 1964.

121st Aviation Company, for period 1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964.

The citation reads as follows:

During the period they were designated to support IV Corps, the DELTA AVIATION BATTALION participated in battles throughout the IV Corps tactical zone. During 49,016 flying hours, the DELTA AVIATION BATTALION transported 193,123 soldiers and 4,621 tons of clothing and equipment. They suffered considerable losses in men and material during the pacification of this region. Thanks to the DELTA AVIATION BATTALION's effective and rapid troop transport plan, Vietnamese combat units achieved many excellent victories during heliborne operations in the provinces of western South Vietnam. The 114th Aviation Company was assigned to support the IV Corps from 5 May 1963 to 30 June 1964. The 114th Aviation Company completed 20,914 flying hours during this period. Out of a total of 39,904 flights completed, more than 60 percent of these were combat missions. During this period 64,864 personnel and a large quantity of equipment were transported to operational areas. In addition, the Company regularly provided fire support for units under Viet Cong attack. Particularly, during the Thang Long 13/5 operation in Vinh Long, the Long Vi 14 operation in Vinh Binh, and the Thang-Long Hai-Yen 79 operation in Kien Phong, the 114th Aviation Company ably contributed a share in transporting troops in accordance with operational plans.

The 121st Aviation Company was assigned to support the IV Corps, from 1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964. During this period the Company completed over 12,800 flying hours in support of equipment and troop transport operations. In addition, with 22,900 combat flights, the 121st Aviation Company was regularly on all parts of the battlefield in the IV Corps tactical zone, particularly during Viet Cong attacks on distant and remote outposts. In this manner, they contributed a praiseworthy share toward territorial pacification in the provinces of southwestern Vietnam.

2. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm awarded by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 10 June 1966 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the period 8 June 1966.

A TROOP 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

The citation reads as follows:

Since its assignment to Vietnam in July 1965, A TROOP, 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION has proved to be an outstanding unit which has participated in many important military operations in III Corps Tactical Zone. A TROOP, 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT was particularly outstanding during a military operation to clear National Highway 13 on 8 June 1966. The unit discovered approximately two Viet Cong Battalions lying in ambush along the highway. With strict discipline and broad combat experience, this unit gallantly encircled the enemy force, and fiercely attacked them, driving them into an exposed position. As a result A TROOP, 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT won the following resounding victory: 325 Viet Cong killed in action; one Viet Cong taken prisoner; two 75mm guns, one 57mm gun, and 50 weapons of various types seized.

By this brilliant victory, A TROOP, 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT contributed effectively to the struggle against communism in South Vietnam and, at the same time, set a high example of the gallantry of all its personnel which reflects great credit upon the United States Army.

This Meritorious Citation is to include the Gallantry Cross with Palm for A TROOP, 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION and Captain RALPH M. STURGIS, 04 071 394, Troop Commander.

3. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm awarded by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 2 December 1965 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the period 14 November 1965.

THE 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

The citation reads as follows:

On 14 November 1965, the 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), was helilifted to LA DRANG valley to pursue and annihilate Viet Cong units. Upon debarkation, the column started through the jungle where Companies A and B immediately clashed with a North Vietnamese Main Force estimated at 400 personnel that was advancing to attack a helicopter group and a team of friendly forces that had just debarked in a neighboring area. Companies C and D were holding the line outside the drop area when they were attacked by approximately 175 to 200 Viet Cong. For 5 hours, there was furious hand-to-hand combat and, although the enemy force was larger and skillfully trained in direct pressure tactics, the combatants of the 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, fought on with determination. In this manner, heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy, and they could no longer approach the drop area. In the 2 days that followed, the 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, with reinforcements from units of the 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry, again engaged in violent hand-to-hand combat

with the Viet Cong during which time the combatants from these two battalions drove back four enemy human-assault waves.

During the fierce 3 day battle to gain ground from the enemy, the 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, and other friendly units killed 634 Viet Cong, and approximately 1,215 other enemy forces were killed or wounded. With a courageous fighting spirit and the glorious victory over a North Vietnamese Main Force Regiment, the combatants of the 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, made the enemy fear and respect them and, at the same time, they upheld the highest traditions of their profession.

This Meritorious Citation is to include the Gallantry Cross with Palm for the 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, and Lieutenant Colonel HAROLD G. MOORE, Battalion Commander.

4. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm awarded by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 22 August 1966 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the period December 1965 to June 1966.

THE 11TH AVIATION BATTALION

The citation reads as follows:

The 11TH AVIATION BATTALION is cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action in support of units of the Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces and Allied Forces throughout the territory of the III Corps tactical zone during the period from December 1965 to June 1966. During its assignment, the 11TH AVIATION BATTALION accomplished the following significant achievements: 41,062 flying hours, 22,970 troops and refugees were moved, 27,488 tons of engineer and artillery equipment, vehicles, ammunition and foodstuffs, and 130 Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces and United States Aircraft were evacuated. Moreover, the 11TH AVIATION BATTALION had provided effective support to the following operations: an operation conducted by the 25th Republic of South Vietnam Division at Luong Hoa on 1 January 1966, an operation conducted by the Capital Special Zone on 15, 18 and 23 January 1966, an operation conducted at Minh Thanh on 27 March 1966, Pittsburgh Operation conducted on 27 March 1966, Birmingham Operation conducted on 29 April 1966 in War Zone C, operations conducted in Gia Rhia and B'Rong on 19 and 20 May 1966, and Jersey Operation conducted in the 31st DTA on 8 June 1966. During the above missions the battalion had sustained many casualties and aircraft losses.

Through the above achievements, the 11TH AVIATION BATTALION significantly contributed to the present counter-insurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam and reflected great credit upon the United States Army.

This Citation is accompanied by the award of the Cross of Gallantry with Palm to the 11TH AVIATION BATTALION and Lieutenant Colonel JOSEPH STARKER, Battalion Commander.

5. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm awarded by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 19 February 1966 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the period 28 January 1966 to 30 January 1966.

THE 13TH AVIATION BATTALION

The citation reads as follows:

As a distinguished air-support unit, the 13TH AVIATION BATTALION, with 206,470 sorties and 116,055 flying hours, has ably supported military operations in the IV Corps tactical zone during the year 1965.

From the U-MINH forest area to the Dong Thap marsh region, courageous combatants of the battalion, under the brilliant command of Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAM J. MADDOX JR., disregarded long hours and enemy antiaircraft fire and determinedly fought against the enemy. In this manner many brilliant results were achieved and the unit earned an excellent reputation.

During the Dan-Chi 199/SD operation from 28 January 1966 until 30 January 1966 in the Vi-Thanh area, Chuong-Thien, a helicopter squadron transported troops to the battlefield at approximately 0500 hours, 29 January 1966 when an echelon of the 3d Battalion, 33d Regiment encountered a heavy attack by the 306th Viet Cong Main Force Battalion. The armed helicopters gallantly advanced despite enemy fire and used their own weapons to block five enemy assault waves, while, at the same time, destroying many key positions and paralyzing many enemy crew-served weapons emplacements. The courageous and decisive action of the combatants attached to the 13TH AVIATION BATTALION assisted infantry units in taking the offensive in order to rout Viet Cong units from their defensive positions, destroy their antiaircraft weapons emplacements, and, finally, to pursue and attack in order to annihilate the enemy. In this manner the enemy was forced to leave behind: 108 dead, 11 captured, six crew-served weapons and 91 individual weapons.

Always upholding the gallant tradition of their military profession, the 13TH AVIATION BATTALION enthusiastically contributed a part towards the common struggle against communism in South Vietnam and are worthy of acknowledgement by the government and the people of South Vietnam.

This Meritorious Citation is to include the Cross of Gallantry with Palm for the 13TH AVIATION BATTALION and Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAM J. MADDOX JR., Battalion Commander.

6. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm awarded by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 31 January 1966 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the period April 1963 to January 1966.

THE 52D AVIATION BATTALION

The citation reads as follows:

Throughout this period the 52D AVIATION BATTALION provided support for military operations in the II Corps tactical zone, from April 1963 to the beginning of 1966, they devotedly executed their missions and exhibited a gallant combat spirit.

Throughout this period, the 52D AVIATION BATTALION completed 114,548 flying hours which are broken down as follows: 69,696 heliborne flights, 1,215 shock action flights, and 4,718 evacuation flights. Regularly operating in a vast and dangerous mountain jungle area and under unfavorable weather conditions, the 52D AVIATION BATTALION enthusiastically participated in major operations at Do Xa Secret Base, Daksut area, Duc Co and Pleime, and in National Highway 19 clearing operations. Always disregarding the

Viet Cong's antiaircraft fire, and despite the fact that many aircraft were hit by enemy fire, the combatants of the 52D AVIATION BATTALION still enthusiastically executed their missions and transported thousands of troops to battlefields in order to encircle the enemy, provide fire, and to direct fighter plane strafing of the objectives. In this manner, heavy losses were inflicted upon the Viet Cong. The most praiseworthy success of the 52D AVIATION BATTALION was the thwarting of a Viet Cong plan to isolate the highlands from the coastal area in central Vietnam.

Under the skillful and courageous command of Lieutenant Colonels DELBERT L. TOWSEND, WILLIAM C. SIBERT, DANIEL C. PRESCOTT, JOHN C. HUGHES, and ROBERT L. CODY, the 52D AVIATION BATTALION upheld its gallant traditions and is worthy of being acknowledged as one of the most outstanding units on the Vietnam battle front.

This Meritorious Citation includes the Cross of Gallantry with Palm for the 52D AVIATION BATTALION and for Lieutenant Colonels DELBERT L. TOWSEND, WILLIAM C. SIBERT, DANIEL C. PRESCOTT, JOHN C. HUGHES, and ROBERT L. CODY.

7. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm awarded by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 14 August 1964 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the period 2 June 1964 to 12 June 1964.

THE 145TH AVIATION BATTALION assigned and attached units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 145th Aviation Battalion	57th Medical Detachment
68th Aviation Company	93d Medical Detachment
118th Aviation Company	129th Medical Detachment
120th Aviation Company	69th Signal Detachment
145th Aviation Battalion, Airlift Platoon	255th Signal Detachment
98th Transportation Detachment	1st Provisional Machine Gun Platoon
571st Transportation Detachment	3d Provisional Machine Gun Platoon
573d Transportation Detachment	6th Provisional Machine Gun Platoon
	8th Provisional Machine Gun Platoon

The citation reads as follows:

The 145TH AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned and attached units continuously operated for 52 hours in order to support the HAI MUOI HAI Operation in Tay Ninh province. Operating at a front line airstrip, from take off to landing the aircraft were subjected to hostile fire. The fire pressure used to blockage the airstrip forced constant changes in the aircraft and alterations to the landing strip.

In a night heliborne operation in a Viet Cong area where such operations had not been conducted before, the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION infiltrated War Zone C at dawn on 2 June 1964. Foreseeing danger and damage to aircraft during the operation, the battalion still accepted and executed the mission. Standby armed aircraft were prepared for takeoff within 5 minutes, while an O-1 aircraft inspected the operation area. The battalion operated continuously night and day from the early hours of 2 June 1964 until the operation ended at 0900 hours on 4 June 1964. The standbys for timely support assisted

the infantry commander in easily maneuvering his troops and in using the prescribed plan to complete the mission. During the operation, the battalion's troop transport aircraft replenished infantry forces, dropped reserve forces, and evacuated approximately 500 civilians. In line with operational support, the battalion's helicopters were also used in broadcasting and leaflet dropping flights. This effort was most praiseworthy, because it encouraged a very large number of civilians to evacuate this area. Continuous air support over this long period is a factor worthy of praise in the success of the HAI MUOI HAI Operation, and it serves as an example of helicopter support for the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces in future night operations.

On 11 June 1964, the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION was entrusted with a mission of support for the Special Forces in carrying out ordnance disposal. Ten CH-21 helicopters of the 120th Aviation Company and 11 AH-1B helicopters from the UTT Company, along with command and control elements from the battalion, went to Tay Ninh at 1015 hours. By 1100 hours, administrative and logistical support consisted of air evacuation and standby rescue.

With the Civil Irregular Defense Group stationed in Tay Ninh the 120th Aviation Company airlifted forces on a special mission to an enemy-held area. This area was quickly cleared, and security was maintained. Two Viet Cong were killed and not more than one Viet Cong escaped during the assault wave. When the Ordnance Disposal Team went into an area, it always had air support in the form of armed helicopters. Thanks to close coordination and clear joint directives, explosives were disposed, and the troops were airlifted from the area immediately after the fuses were ignited, in accordance with orders from the command observation aircraft. At approximately 0130 hours, the mission was completed and all the personnel were taken out of the area of operation. The complete success in executing this mission was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces and contributed a part toward the professional ability of the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION.

On 12 June 1964, the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION answered an emergency call to support the Special Forces operating in the Tay Ninh area. The first call for assistance was received at 1735 hours. The 145TH AVIATION BATTALION dispatched all available aircraft to Tay Ninh. Six AH-1B helicopters from the UTT Company left Saigon at 1745 hours. The 145TH Airlift Platoon dispatched four UH-1B helicopter at approximately 1745 and 1830 hours. Air evacuation and air rescue units were immediately established on a standby basis. The 120th and 118th Aviation Companies were on hand to participate in night operations. At 1845 hours, the 118th Aviation Company sent ten UH-1B helicopters and six AH-1B helicopters to Tay Ninh. At 1935 hours, the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION had a total of 35 aircraft operating in the Tay Ninh area. The ground crew and equipment and logistical support arrived at 2000 hours to assist the battalion in supporting infantry units throughout the night. Mobile aviation forces with organic fire and air transport capabilities contributed a large and effective share toward moving and evacuating friendly forces in combat. The requirements answered immediately by the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION, along with their perfect support ability is in accord with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces, and in line with professional ability and devotion to duty.

This Meritorious Citation is to include the Cross of Gallantry with Palm for:

Lieutenant Colonel JOHN C. HUGHES, Battalion Commander.
 Captain THEODORE K. WRIGHT, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 145th Avn Bn.
 Major PARTICK N. DELAVAN, 68th Aviation Company.
 Major LUNA V. McNEESE, 118th Aviation Company.
 Major EARL O. McCONAHA, 120th Aviation Company.
 Captain JOE K. BELL, Airlift Platoon, 145th Aviation Battalion.
 Captain BOBBY G. WALLS, 98th Transportation Detachment.
 Captain DON C. CHUNN, 571st Transportation Detachment.
 Captain EARNEST W. RHYAN JR., 573d Transportation Detachment.
 Major CHARLES L. KELLY, 57th Medical Detachment.
 Captain DARRYL L. PROVINCE, 93d Medical Detachment.
 Captain FRANZ H. STEWART JR., 129th Medical Detachment.
 Captain JAMES A. WEATHERMAN, 69th Signal Detachment.
 Captain LEROY WHITE, 255th Signal Detachment.
 1st Lt ROBERT P. LEWIS, 1st Provisional Machine Gun Platoon.
 1st Lt WINDSOR WARD, 3d Provisional Machine Gun Platoon.
 1st Lt CHARLES R. HANSELL, 6th Provisional Machine Gun Platoon.
 Sergeant First Class ESTEBAN S. SOTO, 8th Provisional Machine Gun Platoon.

8. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Calm awarded by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 7 December 1965 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the period 29 December 1964 to 4 November 1965.

THE 145TH AVIATION BATTALION

The citation reads as follows:

The 145TH AVIATION BATTALION is meritoriously cited for the devoted execution of their mission and gallant fighting spirit shown during engagements with the Viet Cong in Binh Gia, Phuoc Tuy Province, on 29 and 30 December 1964 and 9 February 1965; Song Be, Phuoc Thanh Province, on 11 May 1965; Dong Xoai, Phuoc Long Province, from 10 to 13 June 1965; and the Boi Loi forest, in and adjacent to Tay Ninh and Binh Duong Provinces on 4 November 1965. Under the successive and clear-sighted commands of Lieutenant Colonel ROBERT K. CUNNINGHAM and Lieutenant Colonel CHARLES M. HONOUR JR., 145TH AVIATION BATTALION employed armed helicopters to destroy enemy positions, and it transported thousands of troops for reinforcement missions and to raise sieges during these large-scale, well-known battles. Although the Viet Cong's 30 and 50mm antiaircraft machine gun fire was very active, and a number of helicopters were downed and damaged during troop transport movements and attacks, the combatants in the battalion still gallantly continued to execute their missions of support, evacuation of the wounded, and observation of the battlefield. In this manner, they assisted friendly infantry units in routing the Viet Cong from their fortified positions. Always exhibiting a decisive will to win and a high spirit of sacrifice and resistance, the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION put fear into the enemy on the battlefields of South Vietnam. At the same time, they upheld the heroic and highest traditions of their profession. With these glorious

successes the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION deserves much praise from the Government, people, and Armed Forces of Vietnam.

This Meritorious Citation includes the Cross of Gallantry with Palm for the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION and Lieutenant Colonels ROBERT K. CUNNINGHAM and CHARLES M. HONOUR JR.

9. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm awarded by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces on 25 October 1965 for outstanding service to the Republic of South Vietnam during the period 21 January 1965.

COMPANY A, 502D AVIATION BATTALION

The citation reads as follows:

COMPANY A, 502D AVIATION BATTALION disregarded the Communist's heavy antiaircraft fire during the TIEN GIANG 2/65 operation on 21 January 1965 and, with their determination, timely executed troop transport, evacuation, and fire support flights for infantry units of the Republic of Vietnam's Armed Forces. Although their aircraft were hit by fire many times during four troop transport flights to the battlefield, flight crews exhibited determination and a courageous fighting spirit. The crew members disregarded all hardships and dangers while flying at low levels to attack sustained enemy defense positions. Because of this, the combat situation turned in favor of the friendly forces. Under the above difficult conditions, the air support executed by personnel of COMPANY A achieved the following glorious victory: 51 Viet Cong killed in action, 60 Viet Cong captured, and a large quantity of weapons confiscated. With their enthusiastic combat spirit and determination in the face of enemy pressure, the members of COMPANY A again upheld their noble tradition and won the admiration of all of the personnel participating in the operation.

This Meritorious Citation for COMPANY A, 502D AVIATION BATTALION is to include the Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

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.

Distribution:

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