

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 45

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 16 July 1969

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I. THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). 1. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following units 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 Richard Nixon on 16 June 1969, 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 PLATOON, TROOP C, 1ST SQUADRON,
AND TROOP B, 1ST SQUADRON,
OF THE 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT,
UNITED STATES ARMY

The foregoing units of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in actions against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 November 1966 and 2 December 1966 during successive combat operations. On 21 November 1966, a platoon from the Squadron was assigned the mission of escorting a convoy from Long Binh to Long Giao base camp along Highway 1. As the convoy proceeded, two reinforced battalions of the elite 274th Viet Cong Main Force Regiment launched a violent, well-coordinated attack. Within seconds, trucks and armored vehicles alike were crippled and burning. Nevertheless, individual platoon vehicles seized the initiative and assaulted the Viet Cong ambushers. Placing themselves between the Viet Cong and the convoy, the platoon maneuvered to bring devastating fire into the attacker's positions. As the embattled platoon from Troop C fought tenaciously to stem the Viet Cong attack, the Squadron moved into the battle area. The remainder of Troop C and Troop B maneuvered to cut off withdrawal routes both north and south of the ambush zone. The shock and determination of the Squadron's attack forced the Viet Cong to abandon their positions. Thirty Viet Cong dead were counted on the battlefield that day, while many others were dragged away by their comrades. On 2 December 1966, the Squadron had completed an operation to clear suspected Viet Cong concentrations in the regimental area. Troop B was securing an engineer worksite at Gia Ray and conducting local clearing operations and platoon roadrunner operations. At 1650 hours, a small resupply convoy was returning to Gia Ray on Highway 1 escorted by the Troop's roadrunner element. The 275th Viet Cong Regiment

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attacked the small column with a barrage of antitank, automatic and mortar fire. Enemy suicide squads raced forward with satchel charges and grenades, intent on destroying entire crews. The escort element reacted with determination and immediately achieved fire superiority. Troop B stormed into the ambush zone minutes later from the north. Army air support, tactical air support, artillery and organic firepower were used to utterly devastate the Viet Cong Regiment. The Squadron relief force began encircling the enemy force as night fell, and supporting fires hammered ceaselessly until the second counterattack was launched at daylight. One hundred and three Viet Cong were killed that day. Intelligence estimates revealed another 200 were probably killed or wounded. In contrast, the Squadron did not lose a single trooper and suffered only 34 wounded. Throughout the entirety of Operation Atlanta, the officers and troopers of the aforementioned units demonstrated repeated acts of individual heroism and collective determination to close with and destroy the enemy. The gallantry and esprit de corps of these units, in close combat against numerically superior enemy forces, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon the personnel of the units and the Armed Forces of the United States.

2. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following units 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 Richard Nixon on 23 June 1969, 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 SQUADRON, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

AND

1ST PLATOON, 919TH ENGINEER COMPANY

UNITED STATES ARMY

The 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the attached 1st Platoon, 919th Engineer Company distinguished themselves by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 11 May 1968 through 3 June 1968. On 11 and 12 May the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment moved from its security positions in the Long Binh-Bien Hoa complex to an area of operations in Hau Nghia and Binh Duong Provinces where it operated in direct support of the 7th Regiment, 5th Division and the 25th Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Their mission was to locate Viet Cong lines of communication, to destroy enemy forces in the area of operations, and to deny the enemy access to Saigon or the Capital Military District. On 13 May, immediately after arriving in the area of operations, the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment began its search for the elite 9th Viet Cong Division. During the next 22 days the 1st Squadron

fought seven major engagements with elements of this division. In each instance, the cavalymen carried their assault through intense fire from the enemy's carefully prepared, well-fortified positions, attacking with grenades and small arms fire in addition to their vehicular mounted weapons. Although the Viet Cong stood determined, fighting on the ground of their own choice, the 1st Squadron penetrated to the center of their defenses, not accepting victory until all resistance was eliminated. Without exception, the numerically superior enemy units were forced to retreat and disperse, becoming totally ineffective during this crucial hostile thrust toward the South Vietnamese capitol. As a result, the Viet Cong 9th Division was unable to move its forces into Saigon or the Capital Military District, a significant contribution to the allied defeat of the total Viet Cong Phase II offensive. The gallantry, determination and esprit de corps displayed by the men of the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the attached 1st Platoon, 919th Engineer Company in their relentless pursuit and destruction of a strong and superior enemy force, reflect great credit upon themselves, their units, and the United States Army.

3. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following units 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 Richard Nixon on 12 June 1969, 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 BRIGADE, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY
COMPRISED OF
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2D BRIGADE
3D BATTALION, 47TH INFANTRY
3D BATTALION, 60TH INFANTRY
COMPANY C, 4TH BATTALION, 47TH INFANTRY
3D BATTALION, 34TH ARTILLERY

The foregoing assigned units of the 2d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, United States Army component of the Mobile Riverine Force, distinguished themselves by displaying extraordinary heroism in action against an armed hostile force during the Tet Offensive and immediately thereafter from 29 January to 4 March 1968 in the Mekong Delta, Republic of Vietnam. Although the enemy possessed many tactical advantages due to an intimate knowledge of the area and detailed long range planning, his offensive was shattered within 5 weeks of its inception. In the Provincial capital of My Tho, 2d Brigade soldiers fought in a crowded city, an unfamiliar environment for infantrymen who were trained to fight primarily in a riverine environment. After restoring the security of the western sector of the city, the riverine forces commenced successive

operations against enemy movements. At Cai Lay, they disrupted enemy attempts at regrouping. Strikes in and around Vinh Long and My Tho collapsed maturing enemy offensives which threatened these two key cities. Finally the riverine forces moved to the relief of the city of Can Tho, where, in 3 weeks of virtually continuous combat, the heaviest enemy attack of the entire Delta offensive was broken. The 2d Brigade engaged the enemy wherever he could be found and inflicted heavy casualties. The achievements of the riverine forces in turning back the enemy offensive represent a key factor in the operations that saved the Delta. The aggressiveness, determination, and exemplary courage under fire demonstrated by all members of the United States Army component are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon the 2d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, the Mobile Riverine Force, and the United States Army.

4. Award of Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by The President of the United States of America to the following units 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 Richard Nixon on 13 June 1969, 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

5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)
1ST SPECIAL FORCES, UNITED STATES ARMY
AND ITS ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS:

(for periods of service as indicated)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Special

Forces Group (Airborne) (1 Nov 66-31 Jan 68)

Company A, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (1 Nov 66-31 Jan 68)

Company B, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (1 Nov 66-31 Jan 68)

Company C, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (1 Nov 66-31 Jan 68)

Company D, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (1 Nov 66-31 Jan 68)

Signal Company, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (1 Nov 66-31 Jan 68)

21st Medical Holding Detachment (22 Apr 67-31 Jan 68)

31st Engineer Detachment (22 Sep 67-31 Jan 68)

251st Signal Detachment (1 Nov 66-31 Jan 68)

487th Signal Detachment (27 May 67-31 Jan 68)

522d Signal Detachment (25 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

540th Signal Detachment (24 May 67-31 Jan 68)

585th Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

588th Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

613th Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

629th Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

630th Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

631st Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

633d Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

634th Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

641st Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

703d Military Intelligence Detachment (30 Jun 67-31 Jan 68)

403d Radio Research Group (Airborne) (1 Nov 66-31 Jan 68)

Hq + Hq Det. USA Hq Area Command - GO 59 '69
 The 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces and its assigned and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in combat operations in wide areas of the Republic of Vietnam from 1 November 1966 through 31 January 1968. During this period, members of the 5th Special Forces Group constantly displayed endurance and exceptional heroism while carrying the fight to the enemy. Operating from remote isolated areas predominantly controlled by the enemy, and deploying normally in 12-man teams, United States Army Special Forces detachments so successfully trained, organized and led their indigenous paramilitary troops that large areas of the Republic of Vietnam were returned to government control. As a direct result, valuable intelligence information was collected and the enemy suffered over 8,000 killed and 2,000 captured during this period. The conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism displayed by the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces and its assigned and attached units are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on the personnel of the units and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. (This award supersedes the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation awarded for meritorious achievement during the period 1 November 1966 to 31 January 1968, as announced in General Orders Number 3427, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375, dated 17 July 1968, and confirmed in DAGO No. 48, dated 13 September 1968.)

5. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following units 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 Richard Nixon on 16 June 1969, reads as follows:

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States

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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 FOLLOWING UNITS OF THE 13TH AVIATION
BATTALION:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

114TH AVIATION COMPANY

121ST AVIATION COMPANY

221ST AVIATION COMPANY

82ND MEDICAL DETACHMENT

80TH TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT

167TH TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT

544TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

28TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT

257TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT

277TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT

325TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT

5TH QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT

53RD QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT

62ND QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT

5TH DOOR GUNNER DETACHMENT

7TH DOOR GUNNER DETACHMENT

12TH DOOR GUNNER DETACHMENT

AND

COMPANY A, 101ST AVIATION BATTALION

UNITED STATES ARMY

The foregoing assigned and attached units of the 13th Aviation Battalion, United States Army, distinguished themselves by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against a hostile force on 27-28 August 1965 in Chuong Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. On 27 August 1965, the units were deployed against the Viet Cong situated in heavily wooded tree lines bordering canals known for their use as Viet Cong supply routes about 15 miles north of Vi Thanh. Elements of the 21st Division, supported by the 114th Aviation Company and Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion, sought to strike a crippling blow against a Viet Cong battalion in the area. During the first day of action, eight helicopter assaults were placed into landing zones in proximity to Viet Cong forces by the 13th Aviation Battalion and attached units. In con-

stant action for a day and a half, the crews of the troop carrier and the armed helicopters consistently braved determined enemy resistance in order to accomplish their mission. Although opposed by such intense ground fire that thirteen of the original sixteen armed helicopters were eventually rendered inoperable and three were shot down, the armed helicopters made repeated low-level attacks which frustrated the frequent enemy attempts to overrun the pinned-down units and finally resulted in the withdrawal of the Viet Cong. The armed ships continued their rocket and machinegun attacks far into the night to prevent the Viet Cong from mounting attacks on the outnumbered friendly forces. Meanwhile, under the perils of constant enemy fire, heavy rain squalls, and darkness, troop carrier helicopters accomplished hazardous medical evacuation and desperately needed ammunition resupply missions. Despite the vigilance of the friendly ground forces, the continued armed ship attacks, and flare drops, the Viet Cong managed to penetrate the lines in the early morning. Due to the extraordinary efforts of the battalion's maintenance units, aircraft under the operational control of the 13th Aviation Battalion were available at 0800 hours the next day to press the fight again and to airlift the battered elements of the friendly forces out of the field and back to the staging area. The determined devotion to duty, esprit de corps, and countless acts of individual and collective heroism displayed by members of the 13th Aviation Battalion under extremely hazardous and arduous conditions are in keeping with the proudest traditions of the military service. The unselfish and conspicuously heroic actions of the members of the 13th Aviation Battalion during the Battle of Dan Chi 157 contributed materially to this important victory over the Viet Cong and reflect great credit on the 13th Aviation Battalion and attached units, the United States Army and the United States of America.

II. THE 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 Republic of Vietnam is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation, signed by President Richard Nixon on 11 June 1969, 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 BATTALION, 45TH REGIMENT, 23D INFANTRY DIVISION
ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The 1st Battalion, 45th Regiment, 23d Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism during the period 28 August to 10 September 1968 in operations against a North Vietnamese Army Regiment in Duc Lap District, Republic of Vietnam. The enemy plan called for capture of the Duc Lap District Headquarters and eventual attack and seizure of the city of Ban Me Thuot. The enemy began massing for attack on 24 August 1968. On 28 August, the 1st Battalion, 45th Regiment was moved into the battle area by helicopter. For 3 days the battalion was in contact

with the enemy, attacking heavily fortified positions and routing the enemy from its assembly areas. The 1st Battalion then assumed the role of the regimental reserve for 2 days while airstrikes pounded the enemy. On 2 September they again moved out to carry the battle to the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties and capturing large quantities of equipment. By 4 September, the enemy's tactical superiority in the area had been destroyed. The 1st Battalion, 45th Regiment prepared defensive positions on 6 September in anticipation of an enemy counterattack which came on the following night. In an all-night battle, the 1st Battalion repulsed an attack by two battalions of the North Vietnamese Army, thereby signaling the end of the enemy's offensive capabilities in Duc Lap District and completely thwarting his plans to seize Ban Me Thuot. The outstanding bravery and fortitude displayed by the men of the 1st Battalion, 45th Regiment in their relentless pursuit and destruction of a numerically superior force reflect great credit on themselves, their unit and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

2. 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 on 11 June 1969, 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 ARMORED CAVALRY SQUADRON
ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The 2d Armored Cavalry Squadron distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in combat in the cities of Vinh Long and Tra Vinh, Republic of Vietnam during the period 31 January to 4 February 1968. At 0315 hours on 31 January the troop compounds of the 2d Armored Cavalry Squadron, the Vinh Long airfield, the 43d Ranger Battalion compound and city of Vinh Long were attacked simultaneously by elements of four enemy battalions. 3d Troop, 2d Armored Cavalry Squadron, after repulsing an attack by a reinforced Viet Cong company on the 2d Armored Cavalry Squadron Headquarters, secured the inner perimeter of Vinh Long airfield from infiltrators and then proceeded to Vinh Long City to eject Viet Cong elements that had established themselves there. In the ensuing 5 days and nights of confused street combat and fierce house-to-house fighting, the headquarters, 1st and 3d Troops, with limited non-organic infantry support, overcame numerically superior, well-armed and strongly positioned Viet Cong forces, firing antitank and automatic weapons at pointblank range from surrounding buildings. Displaying extraordinary aggressiveness, courage and sustained determination, the 2d Armored Cavalry Squadron (-) drove the stubborn enemy force from Vinh Long City with heavy losses. At 0500 hours on 31 January, 2d Troop, 2d Armored Cavalry Squadron was ordered to Tra Vinh City to repel a full scale two-battalion Viet Cong

attack. Upon arriving in Tra Vinh, 2d Troop launched a violent, coordinated and heroic assault on the Viet Cong who had established strong defensive positions in the overrun Province Chief's Compound in the center of the city. Despite intense, accurate enemy fire and with little additional infantry support, 2d Troop by 1900 hours successfully routed the Viet Cong from Tra Vinh. The great courage and brilliant tactics demonstrated by the men of 2d Troop enabled them to blunt the attack by superior enemy forces and secure the nerve center of the province. The 2d Armored Cavalry Squadron during the 1968 Viet Cong TET offensive displayed the utmost gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in the alien environment of difficult street and town fighting. The actions of the men of the 2d Armored Cavalry Squadron were characterized by conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism and were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service, reflecting great credit on themselves, their unit and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

III. 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 is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

**HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, I FIELD
FORCE VIETNAM AND ASSIGNED UNITS:**

- 13TH MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT (23 Dec 65-31 Jul 68)
- 41ST CIVIL AFFAIRS COMPANY (12 Jun-31 Dec 1966 and 1 Jan 68-
31st Det. 5th Weather Sq. 31 Jul 68) ADDED GO 770
- 5TH PUBLIC INFORMATION DETACHMENT (31 Aug 66-31 Jul 68)
- 272D MILITARY POLICE COMPANY (1 Nov 67-31 Jul 68)
- 55TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT (1 Jul 66-31 Jul 68)
- 297TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (3 Oct 66-31 Jul 68)
- 64TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT (12 Jan 66-31 Jul 68)

The citation reads as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, I Field Force Vietnam, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 August 1965 to 31 July 1968. Upon activation in August 1965, the personnel of the headquarters were faced with the monumental task of establishing base camp facilities and defenses, while initiating measures for the provision of all of the functions and services of a corps-level headquarters. The establishment of individual offices and sections was accomplished in a timely and efficient manner, through the dedicated and professional efforts of all personnel, and within a minimum period of time the headquarters was providing a noteworthy contribution to United States counterinsurgency efforts in the II Corps Tactical Zone. Because of the unusually large areas encompassed by the II Corps Zone, which covers nearly 48 percent of the land mass of the Republic of Vietnam, serious difficulties have arisen throughout the 3-year period since the headquarters was

established. All of the challenges which arose have been consistently and successfully met by the sections of the organization, and all tactical, logistical and support needs of the subordinate units within the command have been filled in a manner which contributed immensely to the success of military operations within the zone. In addition to the assigned, attached and operationally controlled units under this command, Headquarters, I Field Force has accepted the responsibility for supporting and coordinating operations with Republic of Korea Army, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, and other free world military assistance forces operating within its area of responsibility. Through outstanding planning, skillful diplomacy and the application of sound military principles, the personnel of the organization have accomplished this mission so effectively that free world military operations within the II Corps Zone have consistently met with great success, and the military strength and capability of enemy forces within the area have been steadily reduced. In addition to its immeasurable contribution to allied military victory in the Republic of Vietnam, I Field Force has done much to support the free Government of Vietnam, and to encourage the civilian populace in the support of their lawful government. By close cooperation with the programs of civil operations and revolutionary development support, the maintenance of numerous, vigorous and effective civil affairs programs, and participation of personnel in various other programs in aid of the civilian population, the command has done much to increase the welfare of the Vietnamese people and to build the foundations for a stable and prosperous Vietnamese nation. The outstanding accomplishments of Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam have been in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon the personnel of the organization and the United States Army.

~~IV. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). Paragraph 1, Section I, DA General Orders Number 17, 1969, pertaining to the award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) to the 718th Military Police Battalion and its attached units, is amended to add: "Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the United States Army Area Command."~~

*Revised,
GO 39 69*

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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