

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 42

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 9 August 1971

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I. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). 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 Richard Nixon 20 July 1971, 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 awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM
TO
THE 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY
196TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY

The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in military operations against hostile enemy forces in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam, 11 through 31 August 1969. During this period the enemy initiated its autumn campaign with the deployment of two well-trained and equipped regiments near the junction of the Hiep Duc and Song Chang Valleys, with the mission of destroying the newly established Vietnamese Government District at Hiep Duc. The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry was the first unit of the 196th Infantry Brigade to make contact with the enemy. Throughout the fierce 21-day battle that ensued, the battalion bore the brunt of the fighting, inflicting severe losses on enemy personnel and equipment. The battalion's decisive defeat of the major elements of the 1st Viet Cong Regiment and the 3d North Vietnamese Army Regiment contributed significantly to the preservation of Hiep Duc District and resulted in the destruction of the 2d North Vietnamese Army Division. The fighting spirit, valiant perseverance, and extraordinary heroism displayed during this period reflect great credit upon the men of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, the 196th Infantry Brigade and the Americal Division. Their bravery and determination are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and the Armed Forces of the United States.

II. 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 (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) is awarded to the following units of the Armed Forces of the United States for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, II FIELD
FORCE VIETNAM AND ITS SUPPORTING UNITS:

7TH MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT
16TH PUBLIC INFORMATION DETACHMENT
29TH CHEMICAL DETACHMENT
44TH ARMY POSTAL UNIT
219TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT
AND THE 517TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT
UNITED STATES ARMY

The citation reads as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, II Field Force Vietnam, and its supporting units distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam from 23 February 1969 to 31 October 1969. During this period, personnel of these units performed an invaluable service in supporting and directing the activities of the free world military forces in the III Corps Tactical Zone. Beginning with the 1969 post-TET offensive, unit personnel, utilizing intelligence acquisition and analysis, planned combat operations and campaigns against a determined enemy. Upon the initiation of Operation DONG TIEN (PROGRESS TOGETHER), personnel of the headquarters implemented programs to effect the close association of designated United States and Vietnamese Forces thereby contributing to the combat effectiveness of Army of the Republic of Vietnam forces while simultaneously maintaining the momentum of the countersurgency effort. Unit members provided a multitude of administrative services; planned, constructed, and maintained roads, bridges, and airfields; monitored the clearing of thousands of acres of enemy-infested terrain; ensured the maintenance of a comprehensive logistical network; and operated an elaborate communications system. Contributing greatly to the pacification effort, the officers and men of Headquarters, II Field Force, assisted thousands of refugees and initiated many civic action and civil affairs programs in conjunction with similar programs established by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam. The leadership, devotion to duty, and multiple achievements of the units were vital contributions to the cause of freedom in the Republic of Vietnam. The outstanding service rendered by the members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company and its supporting units was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on them, II Field Force Vietnam, and the United States Army.

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 periods indicated:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY XXIV
CORPS AND ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS

108TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (4 March 1969 to 8 March 1970)
PROVISIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (2 October 1968 to
4 March 1969)

204TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT (26 December 1969
to 8 March 1969)

PROVISIONAL MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT (2 Oc-
tober 1968 to 26 December 1969)

24TH PUBLIC INFORMATION DETACHMENT (1 June 1969 to
8 March 1970)

PROVISIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION DETACHMENT (2 October
1968 to 1 June 1969)

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, XXIV
CORPS ARTILLERY (20 February 1969 to 8 March 1970)

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, PROVI-
SIONAL CORPS ARTILLERY (2 October 1968 to 20 February 1969)

31ST MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT (2 October 1968
to 8 March 1970)

33RD CHEMICAL DETACHMENT (2 October 1968 to 10 February 1969)

31ST CHAPLAIN'S DETACHMENT (1 FEBRUARY 1969 TO
DECEMBER 1969)

48TH CHEMICAL DETACHMENT (2 FEBRUARY 1970 TO
8 MARCH 1970)

The citation reads as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company XXIV Corps and assigned and attached units distinguished themselves 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 2 October 1968 to 8 March 1970. Activated as a result of the 1968 Tet Offensive to assume operational control of all United States forces in the northern Military Region One, the Headquarters was rapidly organized and within an unusually short period of time was providing a major contribution to the United States counterinsurgency effort in the northern Military Region One. Because the XXIV Corps area of responsibility encompassed the two northernmost provinces in South Vietnam, curtailing the Communist insurgency movement was a monumental task. All challenges were consistently and successfully met, and all tactical and logistical support needs of subordinate units were filled in a manner which greatly contributed to the success of military operations. During this period, personnel of XXIV Corps coordinated and directed the efforts of United States and Vietnamese forces in conducting such major combat operations as Pegasus, Delaware, Thor, Apache Snow, Dewey Canyon and Somerset Plain. These multi-divisional efforts have resulted in denial of havens and strongholds to the enemy, destruction of their political infrastructure and supply caches, and maintenance of the momentum of the counterinsurgency effort. Vast quantities of intelligence information and operational reports were analyzed, with resultant development and adoption of numerous innovations in combat tactics. In addition, medical assistance, civil actions and civil affairs programs were implemented in conjunction with similar projects established by the government of Vietnam and have done much for the welfare of the

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Vietnamese people and for building the foundation for a stable and prosperous nation. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of Headquarters XXIV Corps are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon them and the Armed Forces of the United States.

IV. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). Section I, DA General Orders Number 23, 1969, pertaining to award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) to the 1st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, and attached units, is further amended to add the following attached unit: "Advisory Team 1, United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam".

By the Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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