

GENERAL ORDERS

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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 United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The citation read as follows:

**THE 513TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT**

The 513TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period 31 January to 9 February 1968 in defense of the Hue Tropo Scatter Radio Site. When the signal site came under rocket, mortar, and small arms fire on 31 January at the outbreak of the joint North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong TET Offensive, the detachment's personnel immediately assumed a defensive posture and placed accurate return fire upon the hostile force which effectively blunted the enemy attack. On 2 February 1968, an interrogation compound which was approximately 25 meters from the site was captured, and the enemy launched a heavy concentration of small arms fire upon the site from this position. Again, the men of the 513TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT, although without food and water and running low on M-79 ammunition, held their ground and soundly defeated the attackers. Their efforts during this critical period resulted in the killing of fourteen enemy soldiers, the capture of a North Vietnamese Army captain, and the seizing of two AK 47's, one light machinegun, one pistol and fourteen B-40 rockets. Further, throughout this entire period, they continued their mission of providing vital communications support for the Hue and Khe Sanh areas despite the difficult combat conditions. The men of the 513TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves 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 is awarded to the following named units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the periods indicated:

The citations read as follows:

1. THE 1ST ADMINISTRATION COMPANY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, and attached unit:

43d Public Information Office Detachment.

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The 1ST ADMINISTRATION COMPANY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION and the attached unit distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 January 1967 to 30 November 1967. Assigned the immense task of providing the personnel and administrative support necessary to sustain an infantry division with four main base camps, the various staff sections of the company worked extremely long hours to insure that the men of the 1st Infantry Division received the finest possible postal, financial, personnel, religious, administrative and legal service. To resolve the problems of personnel located in remote regions of the division's sprawling area of responsibility, the 1ST ADMINISTRATION COMPANY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION continuously dispatched men to various forward areas, in each instance either precluding the possibility of an administrative bottleneck or expediting a large number of personnel transactions. In addition to accomplishing its primary mission of supporting the 1st Infantry Division's combat troops in an exemplary manner, the men of the company expended an ample number of their free hours to self-help projects at the Di An Base Camp, constructing barriers, bunkers and other defensive structures along an 800 meter sector of the camp's perimeter. The men of the company, although lacking formal military training in combat arms, absorbed the content of classes on crew-served weapons and perimeter defense procedures and on several occasions successfully demonstrated their prowess under combat conditions. The high esprit permeating throughout the company is evidenced by the fact that personnel of the unit conducted weekly offensive ambush patrols which were made up entirely of volunteers. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 1ST ADMINISTRATION COMPANY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

2. THE 25TH AVIATION BATTALION, and attached unit:

341st Airfield Operations Detachment.

The 25TH AVIATION BATTALION and its attached unit distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 2 April 1966 to 31 December 1967. The men of the battalion demonstrated singular initiative, professionalism and determination in providing excellent aviation support to all divisional units. Their total dedication to furnishing the combat soldier with the best possible aviation support earned them the respect and admiration of all with whom they served. Despite operating in an environment that was characterized initially by heavy Viet Cong resistance and subsequently by constant Viet Cong harassment, the men of the 25TH AVIATION BATTALION insured that the combat effectiveness of the 25th Infantry Division was never hampered by the lack of aviation support. They participated in all major tactical operations conducted by the maneuver elements, and, in every instance, they acquitted themselves in an outstanding manner. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 25TH AVIATION BATTALION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

3. THE 37TH SIGNAL BATTALION, and attached unit:

5th Tactical Control Maintenance Squadron.

The 37TH SIGNAL BATTALION and its attached unit distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 19 December 1966 to 30 September 1967. The battalion's personnel demonstrated initiative, perseverance and professional competence in meeting the constantly increasing communications support requirements of United States forces operating in the I Corps Tactical Zone. Throughout this period, they transformed the communications posture from a relatively small and over-committed system to a highly efficient, sophisticated tactical communications network. Despite the difficulties imposed by the extremely hazardous conditions extant in their area of responsibility, the men of the 37TH SIGNAL BATTALION worked long and arduous hours to provide communications service whenever and wherever needed. Their conscientiousness and diligence resulted in the establishment of numerous communications systems which insured the success of combat operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone. By their technical expertise, unswerving determination and total dedication to mission accomplishment, the battalion's men materially advanced the Free World struggle against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 37TH SIGNAL BATTALION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

4. THE 169TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION), and attached unit:

43d Engineer Company (Dump Truck).

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The 169TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) and attached unit distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 May 1967 to 31 October 1967. Overcoming the immense obstacles involved with construction operations during the torrential monsoon season, the battalion successfully completed numerous top priority projects within stringent time frames. Construction of the United States Army Vietnam airfield at Long Thanh was initiated and completed during the monsoon season, the only major airfield project on which work continued throughout the monsoons. Despite the heavy rainfall and numerous logistical obstacles, the highest quality workmanship was evident in all aspects of the completed airstrip. Always cognizant of the necessity for fostering friendly relations with the Vietnamese people, the battalion participated in the repair of two bridges spanning the Song Dong Nai River, near the city of Bien Hoa, as part of a joint project with the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Works. By accomplishing a variety of important tasks in a commendable manner, the battalion has contributed immeasurably to the engineer counterinsurgency mission in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 169TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

5. THE 1097TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM BOAT).

The 1097TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM BOAT) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Viet-

nam during the period 1 March to 1 September 1967. Initially tasked with the logistical mission of off-loading and back-loading ships and transporting cargo along the coast of Vietnam, the company performed all duties in an outstanding manner. On 26 June 1967, the unit was transferred from Cam Ranh Bay to Dong Tam and was given the assignment of providing direct support for a waterborne artillery battalion. The men of the 1097TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM BOAT) worked tirelessly to make the company operational in a remarkably short period of time, and they quickly assumed their direct support mission. With no manual to guide them in this novel and unprecedented undertaking, the company's personnel demonstrated distinctive initiative and flexibility in overcoming the difficulties inherent in the support of this completely new concept of riverine warfare. In order to minimize maintenance problems, they designed and constructed a damage control vessel and a maintenance barge which insured that 90 percent of their craft were constantly operational. Through their keen imagination, resourcefulness, and ingenuity, the company's men materially advanced the logistical support effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 1097TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM BOAT) are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**III. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION.** Section II, DA General Orders 30, 1968, as amended by Section III, DA General Orders 45, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the Twenty-Sixth Marines (Reinforced), Third Marine Division (Reinforced), is amended to read Presidential Unit Citation (Navy).

**IV. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.** 1. Paragraph 10, Section II, DA General Orders 48, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation, is amended to delete the 213th Aviation Company and the 329th Transportation Detachment.

2. Paragraph 19, Section II, DA General Orders 48, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction) and attached units: the 73d Engineer Company and the 513th Engineer Company, as reads: "The 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction) and its attached units: The 73d Engineer Company, and the 513th Engineer Company distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 June 1966 to 31 October 1967." is amended to read: "The 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction) (for the period 1 June 1966 to 31 October 1967) and its attached units: The 73d Engineer Company (for the period 10 November 1966 to 31 October 1967) and the 513th Engineer Company (for the period 20 March 1967 to 31 October 1967), distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the stated periods."

3. Paragraph 30, Section II, DA General Orders 48, 1968, pertaining to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 577th Engineer Battalion (Construction) and attached unit: The 513th Engineer Company, as reads: "The 577th Engineer Battalion (Construction) and attached 513th Engineer Company distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 2 August 1966 to 11 June 1967." is

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amended to read: "The 577th Engineer Battalion (Construction) (for the period 2 August 1966 to 11 June 1967) and the attached 513th Engineer Company (for the period 2 August 1966 to 19 March 1967) distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the stated periods."

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

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

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

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