

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 69

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 7 November 1969

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION—Award..... | Section |
| PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION—Award..... | I |
| PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION—Award..... | II |
| PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION—Award..... | III |

I. THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). 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 3 October 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 BRIGADE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
ASSIGNED, ATTACHED AND SUPPORTING UNITS

Assigned Unit:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division

Attached Units:

1st Battalion, 8th Infantry

3d Battalion, 8th Infantry

3d Battalion, 12th Infantry

Supporting Units:

6th Battalion, 29th Artillery

Company A, 4th Engineer Battalion

1st Platoon, 4th Military Police Company

Forward Area Signal Center Platoon, Company B, 124th Signal Battalion

50th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)

1st Brigade Military Intelligence Detachment, 4th Military Intelligence
Detachment

2d Platoon, Battery D, 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery

1st Platoon, Battery B, 29th Artillery

Supply Section, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Supply and
Transport Battalion

Contact Team, Company D, 704th Maintenance Battalion

Battery A, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery

Battery B, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery
5th Battalion, 16th Artillery
1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor
UNITED STATES ARMY

The 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and its assigned, attached and supporting units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations along the Cambodian border west of Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam, during the period 18 to 26 May 1967. In May 1967, the 1st Brigade launched an intensive spoiling operation designed to engage and contain a large North Vietnamese force massing in the rugged, sparsely inhabited jungle terrain east of the Cambodian border northwest of Duc Co. Nine days of heavy fighting began on 18 May when Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry came under ground attack by a battalion-size enemy force. As the intensity of fighting increased, the 4th Platoon was separated from its company and came under attack by withering rocket, small arms and automatic weapons fire. The company's concerted and gallant efforts to break through to the separated platoon were blocked as the superior enemy force made repeated attempts to overrun the platoon position. Fighting savagely for existence and demonstrating indomitable courage, the platoon called artillery fire on its own position as the enemy broke through and overran the perimeter. The coordinated employment of artillery, air and gunships, as well as the devastating fire from the men of Company B forced the enemy to withdraw, sustaining heavy casualties. The 1st Brigade pursued the delaying North Vietnamese while they attempted to withdraw from envelopment. On the evening of 20 May 1967, the defensive perimeter of Companies A, B, and C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry came under heavy mortar attack followed by a coordinated ground attack. The besieged companies met the challenge and, supported with massive artillery fire, repelled the enemy onslaught that had come within a few meters of the perimeter after two hours of fierce fighting. The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry quickly maneuvered over rugged, jungle-matted mountains to block the North Vietnamese force from withdrawing west to its Cambodian sanctuary. When the enemy attacked Companies A and B on the morning of 22 May, they surged forward in waves to overrun the friendly position. Heavy close-in fighting raged for 4 hours until the enemy force finally broke contact and exfiltrated from the battlefield. Two more significant battles occurred on 24 and 26 May, with elements of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, and the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry. In both battles, the forces of the 1st Brigade, supported by massive artillery and tactical air support, fought with such ferocity that the North Vietnamese attacks were beaten back. The main enemy force was fragmented and subsequently withdrew. The combined fortitude, determination and unwavering courage of the 1st Brigade's personnel rendered two North Vietnamese Army regiments ineffective and totally disrupted the 1967 summer monsoon offensive in the central highlands. The devotion to duty and extraordinary heroism of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and its assigned, attached and supporting units, reflect distinct credit on themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

60 0

II. THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). 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, 8 October 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
3D SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
AND
BATTERY C, 6TH BATTALION, 77TH ARTILLERY
UNITED STATES ARMY

On 31 January 1968 in the Republic of Vietnam, the 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry, supported by Battery C, 6th Battalion, 77th Artillery, distinguished itself by singular and extraordinary heroism in combat, thereby preventing destruction of a vital allied base and virtually destroying a vastly superior enemy force. Before dawn the Squadron was alerted to move to blocking positions on expected enemy routes of withdrawal following a major assault on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. However, the ferocity and initial success of the enemy attack necessitated immediate deployment of C Troop to the threatened air base complex. After a rapid, cross-country, night move of approximately 25 kilometers, C Troop, supported by aerial elements of D Troop, launched a violent night counterattack which succeeded in separating the insurgents inside the base from the main body of the enemy force reinforcing through the breach in the base's perimeter defense. Although temporarily disrupting the enemy attack, C Troop was heavily outnumbered, and additional combat power was urgently required. Accordingly, the remainder of the Squadron's available fighting strength, to include B and D Troops, elements of A Troop, and the supporting artillery of Battery C, 6th Battalion, 77th Artillery, was skillfully marshaled to support the embattled troopers. In the early morning hours, B Troop raced 47 kilometers over enemy controlled roads, smashing through five ambushes en route, to launch a counterattack in conjunction with the beleaguered C Troop. The rapidity of deployment, the ferocity of the attack, and the accuracy of heavy volumes of supporting gunship and artillery fire caught the enemy by complete surprise, trapped major elements of his force, and eventually resulted in his defeat. Throughout the engagement, the squadron's supporting aircraft and its medical and supply personnel moved into and about the fire-swept area in a magnificent display of courage, dedication, and professionalism. By late afternoon, the 3d Squadron had broken the determined regimental attack, forcing the survivors to flee the area. Despite the long hours of heavy fighting endured throughout the day, D Troop's gunships were ordered in pursuit, inflicting additional casualties on the demoralized enemy who left over

GO 69

325 dead and wounded, numerous individual and crew-served weapons, and great quantities of ammunition on the battlefield. The men of the 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry and Battery C, 6th Battalion, 77th Artillery, by their outstanding bravery, determination, esprit de corps, and devotion to duty prevented the capture of a key allied installation and, in so doing, brought great credit on themselves, their units, and the United States Army.

III. THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). 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, 14 October 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

3D SQUADRON, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

UNITED STATES ARMY

AND ITS ATTACHED AND SUPPORTING UNITS:

1ST PLATOON, AIR CAVALRY TROOP, 11TH ARMORED
CAVALRY REGIMENT

2D PLATOON, 919TH ENGINEER COMPANY

TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY, 19TH TACTICAL AIR
SUPPORT SQUADRON

The 3d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and its attached and supporting units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in actions against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 12 March 1968 to 1 April 1968. During this period the 3d Squadron conducted continuous offensive operations in the vicinity of Duc Hoa, Hau Nghia Province, as part of the South Vietnamese counter-offensive QUYET THANG, "Resolved to Win." In conjunction with elements of the 25th Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the squadron systematically located and decisively defeated enemy forces that were threatening the security of Saigon. The 3d Squadron fought seven major battles, each of which was the result of highly aggressive offensive actions that culminated in fierce close combat with local Viet Cong battalions and elements of the 165th and 272d North Vietnamese Army Regiments. Although in each battle the 3d Squadron was numerically outnumbered by the enemy, superior tactics and the effective and relentless use of direct and supporting fires as well as the daring application of maneuver resulted in the successive defeat of each enemy force encountered. In the 20 days of hard fighting the enemy suffered

four hundred seventy-three casualties, and seventeen prisoners and numerous weapons were captured. The great losses suffered by the enemy forces seriously damaged their ability to continue offensive operations of any nature, causing them to withdraw from the critical Hau Nghia Province around Saigon. Throughout the entirety of the operations, the officers and troops of the 3d Squadron demonstrated repeated acts of individual heroism and collective determination to close with and destroy the enemy. The gallantry and esprit de corps of the 3d Squadron and its attached and supporting units in close combat against numerically superior enemy forces are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on themselves, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the United States Air Force and the United States Army.

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:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements.