

GENERAL ORDERS

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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 18 November 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 (MECHANIZED), 5TH INFANTRY,

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

AND THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED UNITS:

→ 1ST PLATOON, TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY

38TH INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG)

3D PLATOON, COMPANY A, 65TH ENGINEER BATTALION

1ST PLATOON, BATTERY B,

5TH BATTALION (AW) (SP), 2D ARTILLERY

5TH SECTION (-), BATTERY D, 7TH ARTILLERY

44TH INFANTRY PLATOON (-) (SCOUT DOG)

BATTERY A (-), 7TH BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY

The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division and its attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in combat operations against numerically superior enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 18 August to 20 September 1968. During this period, the 1st Battalion task force, through reconnaissance-in-force, ambush, counterambush and reaction missions, effectively destroyed a regimental-size enemy force and prevented the enemy from seizing the initiative in its "third offensive." The officers and men of the task force displayed outstanding bravery, high morale and exemplary esprit de corps in fierce hand-to-hand combat and counteroffensive action against well-disciplined, heavily armed and entrenched enemy forces. An example of the outstanding bravery and aggressiveness occurred on 21 August during a reconnaissance-in-force mission. The lead elements of Company C, 1st Battalion came under heavy mortar, rocket-propelled grenade, machinegun and automatic weapon fires. The company deployed against the enemy forces while the scout platoon protected the company flank and prevented reinforcement by a battalion-size enemy unit. Through skillful use of close supporting fires from artillery, helicopter gunship and tactical air, the officers and men of the task

force repulsed human wave counterattacks and defeated a numerically superior enemy force, which left one hundred and eighty-two dead on the battlefield. The individual acts of gallantry, the teamwork and the aggressiveness of the officers and men of the 1st Battalion task force continued throughout the period of prolonged combat operations, resulting in the resounding defeat of enemy forces in their operational area. The heroic efforts, extraordinary bravery and professional competence displayed by the men of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry and attached units are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves, their units and the Armed Forces of the United States.