GENERAL ORDERS
No. 43

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., *21 August 1968*

Section
VALOROUS UNIT AWARD—Awards I
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION—Awards II

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 reads as follows:

The Valorous Unit Award is awarded by direction of the Secretary of the Army to:

THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The 9th Aviation Battalion, 9th Infantry Division distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 2 September 1967 in support of the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Shortly after receiving an urgent request for insertion of an airmobile blocking force, the unit recalled off-duty personnel, diverted aircraft involved in low-priority missions throughout the area of operations and quickly flight-readied aircraft undergoing post-flight maintenance. This incredibly swift, efficient reaction to the original alert resulted in an airmobile company with supporting armed gunships and a light ship being operational at Rach Kien, the scene of the hostilities, only 1 hour and 10 minutes after the alert was given. Disregarding difficulties such as lack of time for proper planning, crew fatigue, inclement weather, oncoming darkness and an unknown enemy situation, the 9TH AVIATION BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION dispatched its aircraft toward an unprepared landing zone. Disposition of friendly troops precluded the possibility of preparatory or supporting fires on the landing zone and, when the lead aircraft was about to touch down, the area suddenly erupted in a sea of tracers as the insurgents opened fire with numerous automatic weapons and small arms fire. As the battalion reformed for another attempt to land, the escorting gunships broke off and placed a heavy volume of fire on the now revealed enemy positions. As the troop-carrying helicopters approached once again, the door gunners added their suppressive fire to that of the gunships and successfully pinned down the enemy, allowing the wounded to be evacuated and fresh troops to be inserted into the battle. In accomplishing this critical mission, the battalion rendered ineffective a coordinated insurgent attack on the village of Can Duoc just prior to the Republic of Vietnam national elections. The men of the 9TH AVIATION BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION 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 2D BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY, TASK FORCE OREGON

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: THE 2D BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY, TASK FORCE OREGON distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 15 December 1966 to 31 July 1967. This exemplary artillery unit garnered a reputation for exceptional responsiveness through its ability to displace to tactical hot spots on extremely short notice. Separate batteries of the battalion were deployed at Go Dau Ha, Dau Tieng, Duc Hoa, Mo Duc and Gia Vuc, in each instance making the transition quickly and achieving operational readiness immediately. In addition, the 2D BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY, TASK FORCE OREGON constructed base camp areas at Phu Loi, Tay Ninh, Duc Pho, Dau Tieng, Chu Lai, Mo Duc, Go Dau Ha, and Duc Pho. During Operation TURKEY SHOOT, the battalion displaced two firing platoons to field positions to reach insurgent targets outside the range of friendly artillery positioned in the base camp areas. This ingenious maneuver caught the Viet Cong unprepared and resulted in catastrophic losses in equipment, materiel, fortifications, and personnel. Through its ability to set devastating fires virtually without warning, the battalion contributed immeasurably to artillery objectives of the counterinsurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 2D BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY, TASK FORCE OREGON 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 19TH DATA PROCESSING UNIT (TYPE Z)

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The 19TH DATA PROCESSING UNIT (TYPE Z) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 April 1967 to 31 January 1968. Assigned the difficult task of providing data processing support to Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, the unit collected and audited personnel and organizational data from personnel sections, personnel service companies, and tactical elements, formulating it into administrative information, reports, statistics, programs, and records. Displaying superior teamwork in overcoming extremely adverse environmental conditions, the unit accomplished the monumental task of in-country data reduction of strength accounting source documents from over 1,500 morning report units with an aggregate strength of over 18,000 personnel. To accomplish this prodigious feat, the 19TH DATA PROCESSING UNIT (TYPE Z) transmitted over 1,140,000 error free transactions to Headquarters, United States Army Pacific for the purpose of updating personnel master files. In addition, automatic data processing support was simultaneously provided in such functional areas as procurement, prisoners of war, finance, fiscal accounting, supply, and aviation. Consistently working as an extremely well coordinated team, the unit executed prompt action that often precluded serious operational difficulties, always insuring the maximum in data accuracy and reliability. Demonstrating unique initiative and aggressive determination, unit personnel efficiently minimized a multitude of complex problems in handling the extremely sensitive, complicated Advanced Oversea Returnee reporting

system. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 19TH DATA PROCESSING UNIT (TYPE Z) 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 HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 8TH TARGET ACQUISITION BATTALION, 25TH ARTILLERY

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 8TH TARGET ACQUISITION BATTALION, 25TH ARTILLERY distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 October 1966 to 31 May 1967. Upon the unit's arrival in the Republic of Vietnam, it was given the important and difficult combat support missions of establishing an artillery survey control and supplying meteorology data for Allied Forces throughout the III Corps Tactical Zone, including the air weather service of the United States Air Force. By furnishing a common artillery survey grid and current accurate meteorological data to artillery elements, the unit enabled firing batteries throughout the III Corps Tactical Zone to both mass their fires and to fire with increased accuracy. Operating under adverse weather conditions over almost inaccessible terrain while continually exposed to the threat of imminent enemy attack, the HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 8TH TARGET ACQUISITION BATTALION, 25TH ARTILLERY always adhered to and maintained the highest standards of materiel and operational readiness. The vigorous medical civic action program the unit initiated enabled hundreds of Vietnamese Nationals to receive necessary medical treatment. The singular efforts of this exemplary unit contributed significantly to both the growth and strength of the Republic of Vietnam and to the Free World counterinsurgency effort. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 8TH TARGET ACQUISITION BATTALION, 25TH ARTILLERY 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 149TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP and its assigned and attached units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 149th Military Intelligence Group
Company C, 519th Military Intelligence Battalion (Field A)
568th Military Intelligence Detachment
184th Military Intelligence Company
570th Military Intelligence Detachment
12th Military Intelligence Detachment

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The 149TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP and its assigned and attached units distinguished themselves in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 September 1966 to 30 September 1967. Despite encountering numerous operational and administrative difficulties, the group was activated and deployed overseas in record time, assuming its difficult direct support, counterinsurgency intelligence role within days after arriving in-country. Group Case Officers were deployed as liaison officers with every major United States tactical and Special Forces unit operat-

ing in Vietnam and received essential elements of information. This vital information was then relayed to operational elements of the 149TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP for fulfillment and eventually returned to tactical units for combat response, which usually resulted in positive proven loss of enemy personnel, equipment, materiel, and morale. Displaying the utmost sensitivity and a keen appreciation for the problems of their Vietnamese counterparts, members of the group often served in the dual capacity of advisor and case officer in the conduct of extremely important, sensitive operations involving Army of the Republic of Vietnam units. By accomplishing an exceptionally difficult intelligence mission, the group has contributed significantly to the counterinsurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 149TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP 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 HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 159TH ENGINEER GROUP

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 159TH ENGINEER GROUP distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 May 1967 to 31 October 1967. Assuming responsibility for all construction support in the Long Binh/Bien Hoa area, the company provided command and control for four engineer battalions and four separate engineer companies. During Operation MOOSE, Move Out of Saigon Expeditiously, the company was assigned the immense task of building the structures necessary to house the Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam in the Long Binh area. Numerous obstacles were encountered as this project progressed, foremost of which was the monsoon season. The unit exercised extremely close supervision of operational elements to insure that maximum utilization of the dry period of each day was accomplished. Upon the successful completion of Operation MOOSE, the HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 159TH ENGINEER GROUP turned its attention to upgrading the lines of communication in its area of responsibility. By constructing a bypass road around the city of Bien Hoa to the Bien Hoa Army and Air Force bases, the company removed excessive military traffic from the streets of Bien Hoa. This road was constructed through the Tan Mai Rubber Plantation, a notorious Viet Cong stronghold for many years, and achieved an unprecedented measure of security for the surrounding area. Throughout this 6-month period, the company made maximum use of skilled Vietnamese labor, thereby fostering a warm rapport with the local populace. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 159TH ENGINEER GROUP 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.

6. THE 589TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) and assigned units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 589th Engineer Battalion (Construction)

Company A, 589th Engineer Battalion (Construction)

Company C, 589th Engineer Battalion (Construction)
Company D, 589th Engineer Battalion (Construction)

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The 589TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 29 April 1967 to 31 December 1967. Within days after arriving in-country, the battalion began to fulfill its counterinsurgency mission by upgrading the beach and access road at the port of Qui Nhon. The four-hundred bed evacuation hospital the battalion constructed for the Republic of Korea's Tiger Division provided excellent medical facilities for this staunch ally and significantly enhanced relations between United States and Korean personnel. The Unifying thread of the unit's efforts was QL19. Working in conjunction with a civilian contractor, the 589TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION) transformed this rough, primitive road into a modern two-lane highway. Completion of this important project resulted in a substantial increase in the westward flow of supplies to the critical areas of Pleiku, Kon Tum, and Dak To, while simultaneously decreasing wear and tear on the vehicles utilizing the route. The most significant operational support mission undertaken by the battalion was the construction of a type II light-lift airfield at Vinh Thanh. Characterized by the quality of the work and its remarkable durability, this facility is one of the best double bituminous surface treated airfields in Vietnam. Continuously fostering friendly relations with the Vietnamese people, the battalion built a two story high school in Binh Khe, assisted in the construction of the Go Boi Bridge over the Song Am Phu River and furnished a grader to maintain streets and drainage in Phu Phong (Binh Khe). The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 589TH 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.

7. THE 932D MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HEADQUARTERS DENTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE)

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstand-service: The 932D MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HEADQUARTERS DENTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE) distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 18 December 1965 to 18 December 1967. While operating with a minimum of personnel and resources, the unit overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to insure outstanding dental care for the American soldier in Vietnam. Initially exercising control over five dental service detachments dispersed throughout the entire country, the unit organized a highly effective educational program which significantly improved the administration and operation of the subordinate dental detachments. Although unit responsibilities had doubled by April 1967, through the utmost in team effort and willingness to work long and arduous hours, the 932D MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HEADQUARTERS DENTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE) successfully managed the increased workload and continued the unsurpassed efficiency that marked the unit's performance. Cognizant of the contribution that the Civic Action Program makes to the counterinsurgency effort, the unit actively participated in this vital area. During this period of service, more than forty-two thousand Vietnamese civilians were given dental treatment by personnel of this command; lectures and clinical

demonstrations were given to students of the University of Saigon Dental School of Medicine; and numerous Vietnamese civilian and military personnel were trained as dental assistants in American treatment facilities in an effort to better the service given by the Vietnamese Army Dental Corps. This unit exemplified the spirit of the Free World Forces by its singular efforts improving the dental care offered to the combat soldier in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 932D MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HEADQUARTERS DENTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE) 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.

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.