

Wonju-Hwachon

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No. 38

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Section

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (NAVY)—Award to United States Army units during the Korean Operations..... I
NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION—Award to United States Army units during the Korean Operations..... II

I.—PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (NAVY). The following award of the *Presidental Unit Citation (Navy)* is confirmed in accordance with AR 220-315:

Units	Citation
1st Ordnance Medium Maintenance PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION Company	For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea during the periods 21 to 26 April, 16 May to 30 June, and 11 to 25 September 1951. Spearheading the first counteroffensive in the spring of 1951, the FIRST Marine Division, Reinforced, engaged the enemy in the mountainous center of Korea in a brilliant series of actions unparalleled in the history of the Marine Corps, destroying and routing hostile forces with an unrelenting drive of seventy miles north from Wonju. During the period 21 to 26 April, the full force of the enemy counteroffensive was met by the Division, north of the Hwachon Reservoir. Although major units flanking the Marine Division were destroyed or driven back by the force of this attack, the Division held firm against the attackers, repelling the onslaught from three directions and preventing the encirclement of the key center of the lines. Following a rapid regrouping of friendly forces in close contact with the enemy, the FIRST Marine Division, Reinforced, was committed into the flanks of the massive enemy penetration and, from 16 May to 30 June, was locked in a violent and crucial battle which resulted in the enemy being driven back to the north with disastrous losses to his
7th Reconnaissance Company	
8th Field Artillery Battalion	
9th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion	
10th Engineer Combat Battalion, Company D	
15th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion	
17th Field Artillery Battalion, Battery C	
21st Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion	
31st Infantry Regiment Headquarters Company	
Company B, 1st Battalion	
2d Battalion (less Company E) Tank Company	
Provisional Battalion (Detachments 31st and 32d Regimental Combat Teams)	
32d Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion	
61st Engineer Company	
64th Field Artillery Battalion	
65th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion	
69th Field Artillery Battalion	
74th Truck Company	
84th Engineer Construction Battalion	
86th Engineer Searchlight Company 3d Platoon	
89th Tank Battalion	
90th Field Artillery Battalion	
92d Army Engineer Searchlight Platoon	
159th Field Artillery Battalion, (155 Howitzer)	
163d Military Intelligence Service Detachment (Redesignated Platoon 1 September 1952)	
181st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment	

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<i>Units</i>	<i>Citation</i>
196th Field Artillery Battalion	
204th Field Artillery Battalion, Batteries A and B	
441st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment	
461st Infantry Battalion	
513th Truck Company	
558th Transportation Truck Company	
623d Field Artillery Battalion	

forces in the number of killed, wounded and captured. Carrying out a series of devastating assaults, the Division succeeded in reducing the enemy's main fortified complex dominating the 38th Parallel. In the final significant offensive of the action in Korea, from 11 to 25 September 1951, the FIRST Marine Division, Reinforced, completed the destruction of the enemy forces in Eastern Korea by advancing the front against a final desperate enemy defense in the "Punch Bowl" area in heavy action which completed the liberation of South Korea in this locality. With the enemy's major defenses reduced, his forces on the central front decimated, and the advantage of terrain and the tactical initiative passing to friendly forces, he never again recovered sufficiently to resume the offensive in Korea. The outstanding courage, resourcefulness and aggressive fighting spirit of the officers and men of the FIRST Marine Division, Reinforced, reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the United States Naval Service.

II.—NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION. The following award of the *Navy Unit Commendation* is confirmed in accordance with AR 220-315:

<i>Units</i>	<i>Citation</i>
7th Reconnaissance Company	
8th Field Artillery Battalion	
9th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion	
10th Engineer Combat Battalion, Company D	
15th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion	
17th Field Artillery Battalion, Battery C	
21st Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion	
31st Infantry Regiment	
Headquarters Company	
1st Battalion, Company B	
2nd Battalion (less Company E)	
Tank Company	
Provisional Battalion (Detachments 31st and 32d Regimental Combat Teams)	

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION awarded by the Secretary of the Navy. The citation reads as follows: For exceptionally meritorious service during operations against enemy aggressor forces in Korea from 11 August 1952 to 5 May 1953 and from 7 to 27 July 1953. During these periods the FIRST Marine Division, Reinforced, maintained the integrity of over thirty-five miles of defense line in the Panmunjom Truce Area against the constant aggressions of the enemy. During the time the Division was in the lines, it was under fire and attack by a resolute, well-equipped and fanatical hostile force.

<i>Units</i>	<i>Citation</i>
32d Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion	
61st Engineer Company	
64th Field Artillery Battalion	
65th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion	
69th Field Artillery Battalion	
74th Truck Company	
84th Engineer Construction Battalion	
86th Engineer Searchlight Company, 3d Platoon	
89th Tank Battalion	
90th Field Artillery Battalion	
92d Army Engineer Searchlight Platoon	
159th Field Artillery Battalion (155 Howitzer)	
163d Military Intelligence Service Detachment (Redesignated Platoon 1 September 1952)	
181st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment	
185th Engineer Combat Battalion (less Company A)	
196th Field Artillery Battalion	
204th Field Artillery Battalion, Batteries A and B	
441st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment	
461st Infantry Battalion	
513th Truck Company	
558th Transportation Truck Company	
623d Field Artillery Battalion	

The Division maintained an aggressive defense and constantly kept the enemy off balance by continuously patrolling, probing and raiding enemy positions, accompanied by the full weight of artillery and air support. Commencing in August 1952, and frequently thereafter, during the months of October 1952, March 1953, and July 1953, the enemy launched a series of large scale attacks to capture certain terrain features critical to the defense of friendly lines. The outposts and main defensive positions called BUNKER HILL, THE HOOK, RENC, CARSON, VEGAS, BERLIN and EAST BERLIN, along with certain smaller outposts, gave title to battles of unsurpassed ferocity in which the full effort of the Marine Division was required to hurl back the attackers at heavy cost to both the Division and the enemy. That the lines in the Division sector remained firm and unbreached at the cessation of hostilities on 27 July 1953 gave eloquent tribute to the resourcefulness, courage, professional acumen and stamina of the members of the FIRST Marine Division, Reinforced. Their inspiring and unyielding devotion to the fulfillment of their vital mission reflects the highest credit upon themselves and the United States Naval Service.

By Order of *Wilber M. Brucker*, Secretary of the Army:

*MAXWELL D. TAYLOR,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.*

Official:

*HERBERT M. JONES,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

Distribution:

Active Army: A.

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