

MILITARY AND POLICE AFFAIRS

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MISSILE UNITS CITED FOR DOWNING 400 U.S. PLANES

[Article: "The Glorious Tradition of the Missile Troops"; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 24 July 1970, p 3]

Born during the war of resistance against the U.S. for national salvation, the missile branch of the People's Army of Vietnam has spread our nation's tradition of heroism and recorded glorious pages in the history of the People's Armed Forces. Five years ago, on 24 July 1965, the missile troops engaged in their first battle, scoring a clear victory by shooting down over Phu Tho the 400th U.S. aircraft to be downed over North Vietnam, thereby marking a stage in our army's growth.

With their determination to fight and defeat the U.S. pirate aggressors, our missile troops have made extensive efforts to overcome their difficulties and hardships to become the masters of modern technical equipment and continuously improve themselves to destroy greater numbers of enemy aircraft with each passing day. Creatively applying our party's invincible policy of the people's war, the missile branch has grown rapidly, dealing proper blows against the U.S. air force and scoring successive glorious achievements. On the night of 11 August 1965 the 61st Battalion, in only one battle, destroyed three raids of U.S. phantoms. On 7 and 18 March 1966 this same unit downed two RF101's and two F3D2's, using only one missile in each battle. Detachment B, fighting heroically and unyieldingly, shot down more than 30 U.S. aircraft, which included F111A's, about which they bragged and boasted at great length. The Ha Long unit, fighting under the extreme difficulties and hardships of the frontlines, has shot down hundreds of pirate aircraft, six of which were B52's.

The more the missile troops have fought the more skilled they have become and the larger their victories have grown. There have been many days when missiles have destroyed from five to eight U.S. aircraft. There have been many months when our missile troops have shot down from 17 to 39 enemy aircraft.

The glorious exploits of the missile troops during the past five years worthily contributed to the great victory of our army and people over the U.S. imperialist war of destruction and their firm defense of the Fatherland's air space. During the past five years of combat and victory, numerous outstanding units, cadres, and troops have appeared in the missile branch and been commended as Heroes by the National Assembly and government. The hard fighting, fast growing 61st Battalion, which has fought many superb battles, had shot down 23 U.S. aircraft by the end of 1967. The 64th Battalion, a brave and resourceful unit which has shot down 40 aircraft, has wiped out whole raids of enemy aircraft in many of its battles. In a short period of time, the highly determined and well organized 73rd Battalion mastered its weapons and scored numerous victories under complex and arduous circumstances, shooting down 36 enemy aircraft. Nguyen Tuyen, a creative and highly responsible technical cadre, has made numerous suggestions on constructing the missile branch in line with the urgent combat requirements and special battlefield characteristics of our country. Ngo Van Tac, a missile guidance officer who is unyielding in attacks against the enemy, brave and resourceful in the face of difficulties, bold and decisive when given the opportunity to destroy the enemy, devoted to studying and mastering science and technology, and with a high sense of collective unity and achievement, has, with his unit, shot down 22 U.S. aircraft. Dang Minh Chuc, a missile guidance officer who constantly heightens his will to fight and win, is determined to train with and be well versed in his technical equipment, and is resourceful and versatile, has, together with his unit, shot down numerous enemy aircraft, many of which fell in their immediate vicinity, under complex circumstances. Thousands of other units, cadres, and troops have been awarded the titles of "Unit determined for victory," and "Warriors determined for victory".

Since the day North Vietnam defeated the U.S. pirate's war of aggression, missile troops have been heightening their vigilance, making extensive efforts to train and increase their fighting strength in each area, and been ready, together with the rest of the armed forces and the people, to smash each new enemy adventure. Our missiles have knocked down many U.S. aircraft spying and unleashing crimes upon many areas of North Vietnam.

The glorious military achievements of the missile branch have originated in the correct political and military lines of our party. In only a short period of time, our missile troops, under the leadership of the party, overcame each difficulty facing them and rapidly mastered the weapons and equipment of a modern branch of the military. With the wholehearted help of the people and close unity with the other branches of the military the missile branch has developed unique and very resourceful attack procedures which leave enemy forces without means to successfully counterattack and inflict tragic defeats upon them.

The achievements of the missile branch are only a small part of the great victory of our people and army. Missile cadres and troops must study, constantly endeavor to heighten their tactical and technical proficiency, and be ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with associated branches of the military and their compatriots to successfully complete each task assigned.

On this anniversary of the birth and tradition of the missile branch of the armed forces, the people and People's Armed Forces extend their warm regards to the cadres and troops of all missile units. We wish you many new military successes in the undertaking against the U.S. for national salvation.

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