



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

IN REPLY REFER TO
OCMH

Major Anthony Bisantz
245 Lexington Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14222

Dear Major Bisantz:

This is in reply to your telephone request for information about the award of a Presidential Unit Citation to Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry for action in Vietnam.

Inclosed is a copy of the citation pertaining to the award.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. SCHMIDT
Colonel, AGC
Chief, Historical Services
Division

1 Incl
Citation

WVZ

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 51

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 27 September 1968

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I. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY) 1. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by The President of the United States of America to the following unit 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 Lyndon B. Johnson on 22 August 1968, 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 COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, UNITED STATES ARMY for distinguishing itself by outstanding performance of duty and exceptional valor in action against a numerically superior and heavily armed North Vietnamese Army force in Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 28-29 May 1966. During the afternoon of 28 May 1966, Company A was directed to move to the assistance of Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, which was heavily engaged by a determined and well equipped enemy. Moving by helicopter lift, Company A arrived in the battle area by 1700 hours and joined the beleaguered unit. During the next 20 hours the enemy attacked in multi-battalion strength with uncommon determination and intensity of effort. Outnumbered and surrounded, Company A fought valiantly, shoulder to shoulder, with Company B as successive waves of the foe sought to overrun their position. With great professional skill, the officers and men of Company A repelled each enemy onslaught. Gallant acts by all men and inspired leadership were the order of the day. When the roar of battle subsided, the enemy had withdrawn to reorganize his battered units, leaving 241 of his troops dead and numerous weapons as mute evidence of the intensity of the engagement and the valiant efforts of the defenders. Through their heroic stand, another illustrious page was written in United States military annals, honoring forever the men of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry and providing a strong source of inspiration for all personnel within the United States Army.

2. Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by The President of the United States of America to the following unit 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 Lyndon B. Johnson on 22 August 1968, 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 COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, UNITED STATES ARMY for distinguishing itself by outstanding performance of duty and exceptional valor in action against a numerically superior and heavily armed North Vietnamese force in Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 28-29 May 1966. Company B commenced helicopter landings at 1055 hours the first day and immediately received fire from the determined and well equipped foe. For the next 26 hours, the enemy made a determined effort to destroy the American force. Subsequently reinforced by Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th

Infantry, the defenders dug in to meet the repeated enemy assaults of multi-battalion strength. With great professional skill, the officers and men of Company B courageously defeated each enemy onslaught. Gallant acts and outstanding leadership inspired a common purpose and fighting capability that ultimately defeated the enemy. When the roar of battle subsided, the enemy had withdrawn to reorganize his battered units, leaving 241 of his troops dead and numerous weapons as mute evidence of the intensity of the engagement and the valiant efforts of the defenders. Through their heroic stand, another illustrious page was written in United States military history; honoring forever the men of Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, and providing a strong source of inspiration for all personnel within the United States Army.

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 (First Oak Leaf Cluster) is awarded to the following unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

The 539th Engineer Detachment distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service during the period October 1966 to September 1967 in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Throughout this period, members of this detachment demonstrated professional skill, initiative, and outstanding effectiveness in providing engineer support to United States Special Forces, Vietnam, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and United States Agency for International Development, Vietnam. In spite of continuous exposure to hazards and hostile activities, personnel of the 539th Engineer Detachment constantly achieved outstanding results and contributed materially to the United States Army's civic action and counterinsurgency program. The loyalty, courage, determination, and esprit de corps displayed by personnel of the 539th Engineer Detachment reflects great credit upon themselves and the United States Army and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Corps of Engineers 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.

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