

EVENTUALLY AWARDED VALOROUS UNIT CITATION

PROPOSED CITATION

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)

BY DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY),
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST
A HOSTILE FORCE, IS AWARDED TO:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
11TH AVIATION DETACHMENT
5TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT
11TH SECURITY PLATOON
11ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
151ST TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
9TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT
17TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
109TH TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
152D SIGNAL DETACHMENT
75TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT
176TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
11TH TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT
15TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT
176TH ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER COMPANY
100TH TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT

ON 12 MAY 1968, THE 11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION WAS ORDERED TO
EXTRACT ELEMENTS OF THE 2D BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY, COMPANY "A", 1ST
BATTALION, 10TH INFANTRY, THREE COMPANIES OF VIETNAMESE CIVIL FORCES, AND
A SPECIAL FORCES DETACHMENT FROM THE UNBATTLED AIRFIELD AND SPECIAL FORCES
CAMP AT KHAM HUNG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO DAYS, UNITS
OF THE 11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION HAD FLOWN NUMEROUS SORTIES INTO THE
CAMP, RESUPPLYING FOOD, AMMUNITION, AND EXTRACTING WOUNDED PERSONNEL.
DURING THE PERIOD PRECEDING THE 12TH OF MAY, ENEMY FORCES, ESTIMATED IN
MID-THIRTEENTH STRENGTH, HAD SURROUNDED THE CAMP, SETTING UP AUTOMATIC
WEAPONS, MORTARS, AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN POSITIONS IN THE HILLS SURROUNDING
THE AIRFIELD. WHEN SEVERAL ASSAULTS AND MORTAR ATTACKS INCREASED TO THE POINT
WHERE HOLDING THE CAMP NO LONGER BECAME ADVISABLE, THE 11TH COMBAT AVIATION

BATTALION WAS ORDERED IN TO BEGIN THE EXTRACTION OF THE AMERICAN AND ALLIED FORCES. COMMENCING AT 0600 THAT MORNING, CH-47B HELICOPTERS OF THE BATTALION BEGAN THE EXTRACTION. MANY GUNNERS, POURING A DEVASTATING RAIN OF MORTAR FIRE AND 50 CALIBER MACHINEGUN FIRE INTO THE PATH OF THE ONCOMING HELICOPTERS, IMMEDIATELY HIT DOWN THE LEAD SHIP. THE REMAINING HELICOPTERS, ALTHOUGH TAKING HITS, LANDED AND EXTRACTED THE FIRST AMERICAN TROOPS. AS EACH SHIP SET DOWN ON THE HIGHWAY, MORTAR ROUNDS DETONATED, FILLING THE AIR AROUND THE SHIPS WITH SCHRAMEL. WHILE THE FIRST LIFT WAS IN PROGRESS, THE GROUND COMMANDER REQUESTED AN IMMEDIATE AERIAL RESUPPLY TO PERMIT HIS FORCES TO HOLD THE BENT AT BAY UNTIL THE EXTRACTION WAS COMPLETE. THE 11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION RESPONDED, UTILIZING OH-6A HELICOPTERS FROM THE ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANIES, AND MADE TEN DROPPINGS INTO THE BATTLE AREA, IN THE FACE OF HEAVY ENEMY MACHINEGUN AND MORTAR FIRE, AND DELIVERED SEVERE ADDITION TO ALLOW THE DEFENDERS TO HOLD OFF THE ENEMY. THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BATTALION AIRCRAFT, ASSISTED BY AIRBORNE AND MARINE AIRCRAFT, CONTINUED TO EXTRACT PERSONNEL. ENEMY GUNNERS, IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO THWART THE EFFORT, SENT DOWN ONE MORE CH-47B HELICOPTER, TWO CH-430 AIRCRAFT, TWO MARINE OH-6A HELICOPTERS, TWO OH-13 HELICOPTERS, AND AN AH-1 HELICOPTER WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDING AIR STRIKE COVER. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, MEMBERS OF THE 11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION SUCCEEDED IN EXTRACTING ALMOST 700 AMERICAN TROOPS, DEMONSTRATING THAT ARMY AVIATION COULD PERFORM THE EXTRACTION OF A BATTALION UNDER FIRE. THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION, IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY RESULTED IN THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE MISSION AND ARE IN THE FINEST TRADITION OF ARMY AVIATION. THEIR UNPARALLELED COURAGE REFLECTS THE UTMOST CREDIT UPON THEMSELVES, THE 11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.