

# **'Ranch Hands' Receive Presidential Unit Citation**

**BIEN HOA AB**—The 12th Special Operations Sq. "Ranch Hands" recently received the Presidential Unit Citation for their courage, airmanship, esprit de corps and successful accomplishment of their mission.

Gen. George S. Brown, commander of Seventh AF, presented the award during ceremonies held on the Bien Hoa flightline.

The citation accompanying the award, which covered the period August 1966 through June 1967, read in part:

"During this period, members of the 12th Special Operations Sq. repeatedly encountered extremely heavily defended target complexes while flying at very low altitude and air speed required for successful accomplishment of proper defoliation. Despite the constant personal danger, they defoliated the jungle canopy which concealed hostile forces."

Also during the ceremony, General Brown presented the Bronze Star to Lt. Col. Arthur F. McConnell Jr., the outgoing commander for the 19th SOS.

Lt. Col. Rex. K. Stoner assumed command of the Ranch Hands.