The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the

THIRD MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)

for service as set forth in the following
CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty
in action against the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces
in the Republic of Vietnam from 8 March 1965 to 15 September 1967.
Throughout this period, the Third Marine Division (Reinforced), operat-
ing in the five northernmost provinces of the Republic of Vietnam,
successfully executed its three-fold mission of occupying and defending
key terrain, seeking out and destroying the enemy, and conducting an
intensive pacification program. Operating in an area bordered by over
200 miles of South China Sea coastline, the mountainous Laotian
border and the Demilitarized Zone, the Third Marine Division (Rein-
forced) successfully executed eighty major combat operations, carrying
the battle to the enemy, destroying many of his forces, and capturing
thousands of tons of weapons and materiel. In addition to these major
operations, more than 125,000 offensive counterguerrilla actions,
ranging from squad patrols and ambushes to company-sized search
and destroy operations, were conducted in both the coastal rice lands
and the mountainous jungle inland. These bitterly contested actions
routed the enemy from his well-entrenched positions, denied him access
to his source of food, restricted his freedom of movement, and removed
his influence from the heavily populated areas. In numerous operations,
the Third Marine Division (Reinforced) demonstrated the great efficacy
of combined operations with units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.
In July 1966, the Third Marine Division (Reinforced) moved to the north
to counter major elements of the North Vietnamese Army moving across
the Demilitarized Zone into the Province of Quang Tri; its units fought
a series of savage battles against the enemy, repeatedly distinguishing
themselves and, time and again, forcing the enemy to retreat across
the Demilitarized Zone. Imbued with an unrelenting combat spirit
and initiative and undeterred by heavy hostile artillery and mortar
fire, extremely difficult terrain, incessant heat and monsoon rains,
the Third Marine Division (Reinforced), employing courageous ground,
heliborne and amphibious assaults, complemented by intense and
accurate air, artillery and naval gunfire support, inflicted great
losses on the enemy and denied him the political and military victory
he sought to achieve at any cost. The outstanding courage, resourceful-
ness and aggressive fighting spirit of the officers and men of the Third
Marine Division (Reinforced) in battle after battle against a well-equipped
and well-trained enemy, often numerically superior in strength, and the
great humanitarianism constantly shown to the peoples of the Republic
of Vietnam, reflected great credit upon the Marine Corps and were in
keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

II-1-46
MARINE CORPS BULLETIN 1650

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List
Subj: Presidential Unit Citation, Third Marine Division (Reinforced)
Encl: (1) Supporting Unit Listing

1. **Purpose.** To publish the supporting unit listing entitled to the subject award.

2. **Background.** The President of the United States previously approved the Presidential Unit Citation to the 3d Marine Division (Reinforced) for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty from 8 March 1965 to 15 September 1967, while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. A previous Marine Corps bulletin in the 1650 series announced and published the organic units entitled to this award and further stated the supporting units would be published at a later date. Enclosure (1) is a listing of such units with exception of U.S. Army units. Verification by the Army to include dates of participation has not been completed to date and, therefore, a separate listing will be published as a change to this Bulletin at a later date.

3. **Personnel Eligible.** All personnel attached to and serving with the units indicated in enclosure (1), by documentary evidence, i.e., TAD orders, appropriate service record book entries, etc., during the individual periods designated or any part thereof are entitled to the citation and authorization to wear the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon Bar with appropriate star by those who have a prior award or without star by those entitled to the initial award.

4. **Action**

   a. **For Active Duty Personnel.** Commanding officers will authorize eligible personnel under their command to purchase and wear the ribbon bar, and also furnish the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL) with the number of such personnel in order that facsimiles of the citation can be forwarded.
b. For Inactive Personnel. The Commandant of the Marine Corps will announce through all available news media the publishing of these units, and by such media will furnish similar instructions to separated personnel concerning the method of making application for the award.

5. Reserve Applicability. This Bulletin is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.


W. J. Van Ryzin
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: "A"
SUPPORTING UNIT LISTING

1. Marine Corps Units and Detachments:

26th Marines (Fwd)
  1st Battalion
    2d Battalion
    3d Battalion

13th Marines
  1st Battalion
  4th Battalion
    A Battery
    K Battery

9th Motor Transport Battalion

11th Engineer Battalion

1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion
  H&S Company
    A Company
    B Company
  LVTH Platoon

2d Topographical Company

3d Force Reconnaissance Company

1st Provisional 155mm Gun Battery (SP)
  (Formed in country)

2d Provisional 155mm Gun Battery (SP)
  (Formed in country)

1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)

1st Searchlight Battery

1st Field Artillery Group

1st Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery

1st Counterintelligence Team

1st Special Security Communications Team

3d Interrogator Translator Team

9th Interpreter Team

7th Interrogator Translator Team

17th Interrogator Translator Team

11th Interpreter Team

1st Platoon, 1st Armored Amphibious Tractor Company

3d Counterintelligence Team

1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP)
The following is a breakdown of Task Force 79.4; personnel appearing in the following task force elements who also appear in another area within this listing do not warrant two awards.

**TASK FORCE 79.4 (Consisting of):** 18May67-15Sep67

- BLT 1st Battalion, 3d Marines
  - H&S Company
    - A Company
    - B Company
    - C Company
    - D Company
  - Det, HqCo, 9thMAB (Radio Relay)
  - Det, 15th Med Bn
  - Det, Postal Section, HqBn, 3dMarDiv
  - Det, Photo Section, HqBn, 3dMarDiv
  - Det, Disbursing Section, HqBn, 3dMarDiv
  - Det, HqCo, RLT-26 (Radio Relay)
  - Btry "A", (Rein.), 1stBn, 12th Marines
  - 107mm Mortar Battery, 2dBn, 12th Marines
  - 1stPlt (Rein), Co"B", 1st AmTracBn
  - 3dPlt (Rein), Co"C", 3dTkBn
  - 2dPlt (Rein), Co"A", 3dEngrBn
  - 1stPlt (Rein), Co"B", 3d ReconBn
  - 1st Clearing Plt, (Rein), Co"B", 3d MedBn
  - 1st Clearing Plt, (Rein), Co"B", 5th MedBn
  - Det LSU, 3d ServBn, (Provided by FLC)
  - 2dPlt, (Rein), Co"B", 3d SPBn
  - 1stPlt, (Rein), Co"B", 3dMTBn
  - Det, HqBtry, 1stBn, 12thMar (Naval Gunfire Liaison Team)
  - Det, 15th Dental Company
  - Det, Btry "A", 1stBn, 12thMar (Liaison Team)
  - 4.2" Mortar Btry, 2dBn, 12thMar
  - 4thPlt (Rein), Co"A", 5th AmTracBn
  - 3dPlt (Rein), Co"A", 3d ATBn

**ENCLOSURE (1) 2**
b. The following is a breakdown of Task Force 79.5; personnel appearing in the following task force elements who also appear in another area within this listing do not warrant two awards:

**TASK FORCE 79.5 (Consisting of)**

18May67-15Sep67

BLT 2d Battalion, 3d Marines
H&S Company
E Company
F Company
G Company
H Company

"B"Btry (Rein), 1stBn, 12thMar
1stPlt, (Rein), Co"A", 3dTkb
3dPlt, (Rein), Co"B", 1stAmTracBn
2dPlt, (Rein), Co"A", 3dATBn
3dPlt, Co"B", 3dReconBn
2d Clearing Plt, (Rein), Co"B", 3dMedBn
Det, LSU (Det, FLC)
1stPlt, (Rein), Co"C", 3dSPBn
1stPlt, (Rein), Co"C", 3dMTBn
1stPlt, (Rein), Co"A", 3dEngBn
Det "A", Beach Jumper Unit-1

HMM-164
HMM-262
HMM-265

3Apr67-12Jul67
23Aug67-15Sep67
12Jul67-23Aug67

c. The following subordinate units of the combined action units have been extracted from the canceled Navy Unit Commendation recommendation and are entitled to this award as follows:

Hq, 3d Combined Action Group

Combined Action Company "A"

Combined Action Platoon A-1
Combined Action Platoon A-2
Combined Action Platoon A-3
Combined Action Platoon A-6/9
Combined Action Platoon A-7

Combined Action Company "H"

Combined Action Platoon H-1
Combined Action Platoon H-2
Combined Action Platoon H-3
Combined Action Platoon H-4
Combined Action Platoon H-5
Combined Action Platoon H-6
Combined Action Platoon H-7
Combined Action Platoon H-8

17Jul-15Sep67
9Aug65-15Sep67
9Aug65-15Sep67
9Aug65-15Sep67
26Feb66-15Sep67
27Apr66-15Sep67
12Dec66-15Sep67
7Feb66-15Sep67
7Feb66-15Sep67
20Jun66-15Sep67
4Dec66-15Sep67
4Dec66-15Sep67
16Dec66-15Sep67
16Dec66-15Sep67
2Mar67-15Sep67
Combined Action Company "O" 3Feb67-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon O-1 3Feb67-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon O-2 3Feb67-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon O-3 3Feb67-15Sep67
Combined Action Company "P" 8Mar67-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon P-1 8Mar67-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon P-2/4 8Mar67-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon P-3 15Mar67-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon P-5 16May67-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon P-6 16May67-15Sep67

d. The following units and detachments of the 1st Marine Division:

1st Marines
1st Battalion 28Aug65-28Mar66
2d Battalion 22Dec65-28Mar66
3d Battalion 28Jun65-28Mar66

5th Marines
2d Battalion 5Apr66-12Apr66
3d Battalion 13May66-26May66

7th Marines (-) (Rein)
Hq Company 14Aug65-28Mar66
1st Battalion 14Aug65-28Mar66
2d Battalion 6Jul65-28Mar66
3d Battalion 1Sep65-28Mar66

11th Marines (-) (Rein)
Hq Battery 20Feb66-28Mar66
1st Battalion
  Hq Battery 16Jun65-28Mar66
  "A" Battery 13Nov65-14Jun66
  "C" Battery 28Jan66-28Mar66
3d Battalion
  Hq Battery 14Aug65-28Mar66
  "G" Battery 14Aug65-28Mar66
  "H" Battery 14Aug65-28Mar66
  "I" Battery 14Aug65-28Mar66
  107mm Platoon 14Aug65-28Mar66

1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion
"A" Company (-) (Rein) 27Mar66-5Apr66
1st Military Police Company 31Mar65-24Mar66
1st Motor Transport Battalion
"A" Company (-) (Rein) 16Jan66-28Mar66
1st Reconnaissance Battalion
"A" Company (-) 16Jan66-28Mar66
"C" Company 14Aug65-28Mar66

ENCLOSURE (1)
1st Tank Battalion
"B" Company
"C" Company

3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion
"A" Company (-)(Rein)

1st Engineer Battalion
"A" Company (-)(Rein)
"C" Company (-)(Rein)

1st Shore Party Battalion
"A" Company (-)(Rein)
"C" Company (-)(Rein)

1st Medical Battalion
"C" Company (Rein)

14Aug65-28Mar66
5Apr66-26May66
28Jan66-28May66
18Jan66-28Mar66
5Apr66-27May66
1May65-30Mar66
1Mar65-30Mar66
14Aug65-28Mar66

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18 Dec 1968

2. Regulations prohibit a unit or any part thereof to be awarded more than one unit award, regardless of type, for the same act or service. Occasionally a unit may have received a unit award for an act or service performed within a period covered by another award. It is also possible for the time-frame of one unit award to overlap that of another. In such circumstances the following rules will apply:

a. Personnel serving within a timeframe covered by two or more unit awards may select and wear the higher, but only the one unit award ribbon.

b. Personnel serving during a period which extends beyond the timeframe of one award into that of another are eligible for both unit awards.

EXAMPLE: The 3d Reconnaissance Battalion was previously awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the period 22 September 1965 to 15 March 1966. Those personnel serving during that period only may elect to wear the Presidential Unit Citation. Those personnel also serving prior to or after the above period may wear both the Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Commendation.

ENCLOSURE (1)