

developed a major portion of all targets successfully destroyed by the Division throughout the period. The aggressiveness, determination, enthusiasm, and exemplary courage under fire demonstrated by all members of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, reflect great credit on the organization and stand in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

**II--VALOROUS UNIT AWARD.** By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1, AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded the following-named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the periods indicated:

The citations read as follows:

1. TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY  
TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 31 January 1968 in defense of the Bien Hoa Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam. Given the extremely hazardous mission of traveling along enemy infested Highway 1 to the besieged airfield, the cavalymen were the object of three well-coordinated and effectively executed enemy ambushes along the route. The determined Viet Cong assailants directed deadly fires of antitank rockets, automatic weapons and small arms at the troopers from point blank range. With indomitable courage and relentless determination, the Black Knights repelled all attacks by saturating the area with devastating machinegun, grenade and rifle fire. When the men of TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY reached their final objective, they moved out on a sweep of the area. A short time later, they clashed with two reinforced companies of Viet Cong and, although fighting against seemingly insurmountable odds, the troopers refused to leave their positions, killing the communist aggressors at extremely close range. Through their unswerving perseverance, exemplary bravery and tactical proficiency, the troop's members contributed immeasurably to the successful defense of the Bien Hoa Air Base. The men of TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.
2. THE 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION.

The 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period 15 November 1967 to 3 February 1968 in the Que Son and Hiep Duc Districts of the Republic of Vietnam. Initially participating in Operation WHEELER/WALLOVA in the Que Son District, the battalion's personnel demonstrated exemplary courage and relentless determination in conducting highly successful search, destroy and interdiction missions. On 22 November 1967, they were committed to an assault upon a large North Vietnamese Army force in the vicinity of the Dong Son hamlet. Because of the voluminous firepower and aggressiveness of the unit's members during three consecutive days of fierce fighting, the enemy was forced to break contact and the battle was held as an overwhelming victory for the fighting men of the 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION. Subsequently operating in the Hiep Duc District, the battalion's mem-

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bers served as the security force for Fire Support Base WEST. On the morning of 3 January 1968, a large communist force launched an intensive attack upon the base and pressed on for nine days and nights with violent mortar, rocket and rocket propelled grenade assaults in an attempt to break through the defense. Exhibiting unparalleled bravery and perseverance, the security elements repulsed every enemy attack while the maneuver elements simultaneously engaged and defeated regimental-sized units of the North Vietnamese Army in the Hiep Duc Valley. The men of the 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**3. THE 2D BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 47TH INFANTRY and its attached unit: Company B, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry.**

The 2D BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 47TH INFANTRY and the attached unit distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 31 January 1968 in defense of the II Field Force headquarters and the Long Binh-Bien Hoa military complex in the Republic of Vietnam. When the enemy launched a concerted ground and rocket attack against the complex, the battalion provided reinforcements for the II Field Force Vietnam headquarters, the Long Binh ammunition depot and the headquarters of the III Corps, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Throughout the day, all elements of the unit fought valiantly to overcome strong enemy resistance in Widows Village, Ho Nai Village, Bien Hoa City and the ammunition storage areas. Headquarters and support troops of the 2D BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 47TH INFANTRY assisted the maneuver forces by establishing and maintaining command and control facilities despite being under constant enemy fire; maintenance recovery crews and resupply personnel worked tirelessly to evacuate disabled armored vehicles and furnish vital ammunition resupply directly to the battle area; medical personnel, exposed time and again to enemy fire, performed brilliantly, saving the lives of many members of the battalion by their actions. By nightfall on 31 January, the battalion had successfully accomplished all of the varied tasks assigned to it and had soundly defeated all enemy efforts to destroy installations that were vital to the free world mission in the Republic of Vietnam. At the termination of the action, the unit had rendered the communist forces combat-ineffective by inflicting over two hundred casualties, capturing thirty-two enemy combatants and confiscating eighty-four enemy weapons. The men of the 2D BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 47TH INFANTRY displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**III. VALOROUS UNIT AWARD.** By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1, AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded the following-named unit of the United States Army and its attached United States Air Force and Army of the Republic of Vietnam units for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

DETACHMENT B-52 (PROJECT DELTA), 5TH SPECIAL FORCES