

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 20

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC, 4 June 1973

	Section
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)—Award.....	I
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION—Awards.....	II
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION—DAGO 37, 1972, amended.....	III

**I. PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY).** Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following units 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 Richard Nixon on 2 May 1973 reads as follows:

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, I have today awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)  
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM  
TO THE  
ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS OF  
THE 9TH MARINE REGIMENT, 3D MARINE DIVISION  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

2d Battalion (less F and H Companies), 3d Marine Regiment

Company C, 3d Engineer Battalion

**9TH MARINE REGIMENT**

Company A, 3d Shore Party Battalion  
Detachment, Company B, 3d Shore Party Battalion  
Detachment, Company C, 11th Engineer Battalion  
Detachment, Support Company, 3d Engineer Battalion  
Provisional Reconnaissance Company, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion  
Scout Dog Platoon, 3d Military Police Battalion  
Detachment, 4th Platoon, Operations Company, 1st Radio Battalion  
Detachment, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 and 128  
Detachment, Communications Company, Headquarters Battalion  
Detachment, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoon, Force Logistic Support Group—BRAVO  
Provisional Rifle Platoon, Quang Tri Combat Base

**12TH MARINE REGIMENT**

1st and 3d Provisional Batteries  
2d Battalion

**UNITED STATES ARMY**

Battery C, 1st Battalion, 83d Artillery, XXIV Corps Artillery

The assigned and attached units of the 9th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism, professionalism, and achievement in military action against the North Vietnamese Army in the Da Krong and Northern A Shau Valleys, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam, during the period 22 January to 18 March 1969. Launched under

the code name "Dewey Canyon", the concept of the eight-week offensive was a thrust deep into the enemy's rear area to destroy a heretofore impregnable major base. A week of inclement weather delayed the surprise attack and halted combat support, resupply, and medical evacuation. When the weather cleared to the extent that helicopter operations were possible, the Marines found that the enemy had skillfully exploited the delay to strengthen his defenses, position medium range artillery, and otherwise complete preparation of the battlefield. Undaunted, the Marines and their South Vietnamese counterparts drove southward, enduring intense artillery, mortar, and automatic weapons fire, to rout a determined enemy from his fortifications. The Marines repulsed numerous counterattacks in the process of decimating the equivalent of two North Vietnamese Army regiments. The 9th Marine Regiment and its attached units destroyed the enemy's regional command control apparatus, eliminated a series of headquarters establishments, and inflicted over 1600 casualties on the North Vietnamese Army. The enemy's engineer and transport capabilities were severely diminished. Additionally, the Marines captured over 1000 tons of weapons, equipment, and supplies; including individual weapons, Infantry crew-served weapons, antiaircraft guns, Field Artillery pieces, vehicles, small-caliber ammunition, and rice. As a result of their gallant actions, the North Vietnamese Army Spring Offensive in the I Corps Tactical Zone was preempted. This magnificent feat of arms, achieved against severe odds and seemingly insurmountable obstacles was made possible by the extraordinary courage, skill, cohesion, and fighting spirit of the 9th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division and its attached units. The superb performance of the officers and men of this force represents the essence of professionalism, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit on them and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**II. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.** 1. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

**HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, XXIV CORPS** and the following assigned units:

- 108th Transportation Company
- 204th Military Intelligence Detachment
- 24th Public Information Detachment
- 31st Military History Detachment
- 48th Chemical Detachment
- 29th Civil Affairs Company
- 51st Civil Affairs Company
- 53rd Civil Affairs Company and
- 54th Civil Affairs Company

For the period 9 March 1970 to 8 April 1971.

2. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious

achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, XXIV CORPS (9 April 1971 to 27 April 1972) and the following assigned units:

108th Transportation Company (9 April 1971 to 27 April 1972)  
 204th Military Intelligence Detachment (9 April 1971 to 27 April 1972)  
 24th Public Information Detachment (9 April 1971 to 30 June 1971)  
 31st Military History Detachment (9 April 1971 to 27 April 1972)  
 48th Chemical Detachment (9 April 1971 to 15 November 1971) and  
 29th Civil Affairs Company (9 April 1971 to 1 December 1971)

**III. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.** So much of paragraph 3, Section II, Department of the Army General Orders Number 37, 1972, pertaining to award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 29th Engineer Battalion and assigned units as reads: "For the period 1 March 1968 to 30 June 1972" is amended to read: "For the period March 1968 to September 1972".

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS  
*General, United States Army*  
*Chief of Staff*

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS  
*Major General, United States Army*  
*The Adjutant General*

DISTRIBUTION:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements.