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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS
ORDERS 2704

5 June 1968

AWARD OF THE MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

Awarded: Meritorious Unit Commendation

Date action: 5 May 1965 to 4 May 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE) and its assigned and attached units: 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne); 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne); 3d Battalion, 319th Artillery (Airborne); 173d Support Battalion (Airborne); Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate); Troop E, 17th Cavalry; Company D, 16th Armor; 173d Engineer Company; Company A (Administration); 4th Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne); 335th Airmobile Company (Light) (Formerly Company A, 82d Aviation Battalion); 51st Chemical Detachment; 172d Military Intelligence Detachment; 234th Signal Detachment; 166th Transportation Detachment; 25th Medical Detachment; 404th Radio Research Unit; 39th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog); 24th Military History Detachment; 45th Postal Unit; and 12th AA Platoon, distinguished themselves in the conduct of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 5 May 1965 to 4 May 1967. As the first ground combat unit in-country, the brigade conducted extensive combat maneuvers in the Bien Hoa area and in the Viet Cong strongholds of War Zone D and the Iron Triangle. In every confrontation with the stubborn insurgents, the 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE) displayed marked aggressiveness which enabled them to neutralize enemy strongholds and capture thousands of logistical items. In addition to remarkable skill and tenacity in combat, the sky soldiers of the brigade carried on an extensive civic action program characterized by sincere compassion for the suppressed local populace. During each of the brigade's combat operations, the sky soldiers immeasurably aided the allied counterinsurgency effort by winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE) 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.

Authority: By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1.