

GENERAL ORDERS }
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No. 17

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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VALOROUS UNIT CITATION—Awards -----	Section I
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION—Awards -----	II

I—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. The Valorous Unit Award is awarded by direction of the Secretary of the Army to:

COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) for extraordinary heroism:

COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 8th CAVALRY, 1st CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism on 16 and 17 May 1966 during a three day mission to search out and destroy a suspected Viet Cong concentration in Binh Dinh Province in the Republic of Vietnam. At 1400 hours, the lead platoon spotted a single insurgent, fired at him, and was immediately engulfed by a barrage of fire from many Viet Cong bunkers. The platoon tried repeatedly to maneuver against the enemy and gain fire superiority, but the insurgents were present in such large numbers, that the friendly unit was pinned down in its positions and sustaining casualties. Despite the fierceness of the Viet Cong assaults, the lead men twice counterattacked the enemy to retrieve casualties from the battlefield, and then drew back to form a defensive perimeter. As a torrential downpour began, the numerically superior Viet Cong force closed in from all directions. The friendly platoons dug into defensive positions and gathered the wounded to the center of their circle. Despite steadily mounting casualties, the men of COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 8th CAVALRY, 1st CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) resolutely held off human wave attacks by the insurgents and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy until relieved by another rifle company at 2200 hours. The battalion sized Viet Cong force never eased its attack pressure on the unit's perimeter. Since the men were extremely low on ammunition, they were already fixing bayonets to defend their positions in close combat when the insurgents finally broke contact at the arrival of still another friendly unit. The men of COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 8th CALVARY, 1st CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Army.

2. The Valorous Unit Award is awarded by direction of the Secretary of the Army to:

