

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), operating 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 (Reinforced) 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 counter guerrilla 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, resourcefulness 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.



File Copy



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

MCBul 1650  
DLA-jdd  
18 Dec 1968

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 facsimilies of the citation can be forwarded.

MCBul 1650  
18 Dec 1968

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.

6. Self-Cancellation. 30 June 1969.

  
W. J. VAN RYZIN  
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: "A"

MCBul 1650  
18 Dec 1968

SUPPORTING UNIT LISTING

1. Marine Corps Units and Detachments:

26th Marines (Fwd)	25Apr66-15Apr67
1st Battalion	28Sep66-15Sep67
2d Battalion	(SLF 2Aug-27Sep66)
3d Battalion	26Aug66-15Sep67
	9Dec66-15Sep67
	(SLF 50Oct-8Dec66)
13th Marines	
1st Battalion	23Jul67-15Sep67
4th Battalion	
A Battery	2May67-15Sep67
K Battery	28Apr67-15Sep67
9th Motor Transport Battalion	16Jul65-15Sep67
11th Engineer Battalion	30Nov66-15Sep67
1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion	
H&S Company	15Jul65-15Sep67
A Company	15Jul65-15Sep67
B Company	15Jul65-15Sep67
LVTH Platoon	15Jul65-15Sep67
2d Topographical Company	1Apr65-15Sep67
3d Force Reconnaissance Company	25Apr67-15Sep67
1st Provisional 155mm Gun Battery (SP)	6Jan67-15Sep67
(Formed in country)	
2d Provisional 155mm Gun Battery (SP)	7Jan67-15Sep67
(Formed in country)	
1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)	12Jul65-15Sep67
1st Searchlight Battery	26Jun67-15Sep67
1st Field Artillery Group	29Nov66-15Sep67
1st Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery	23Jul67-15Sep67
1st Counterintelligence Team	8Mar65-31Oct66
1st Special Security Communications Team	6May65-15Sep67
3d Interrogator Translator Team	1Apr66-15Sep67
9th Interpreter Team	21Jul67-15Sep67
7th Interrogator Translator Team	17Apr66-15Sep67
17th Interrogator Translator Team	21Aug67-15Sep67
11th Interpreter Team	21Aug67-15Sep67
1st Platoon, 1st Armored Amphibious Tractor Company	8Nov66-15Sep67
3d Counterintelligence Team	8Mar65-31Oct66
1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP)	1Mar66-15Sep67

MCBul 1650  
18 Dec 1968

3d 155mm Gun Battery (SP)	4Aug65-15Sep67
Detachment, 15th Counterintelligence Team	22Nov66-15Sep67
1st Clearance Platoon, Company D, 5th Medical Battalion	6Jun67-15Sep67
Communications Support Company (-), 7th Communications Battalion	2Jun67-15Sep67
Detachment, Scout Dog Platoon, FLC	7Jul67-15Sep67
Company C, 7th Engineer Battalion	12Mar65-15Sep67
Detachment "J", 1st Radio Battalion (Same as Subunit #1, 1st Radio Bn)	12Apr65-15Sep67

a. 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  
HMM-263 / 3Apr67-12Jun67  
HMM-362 / 28Jun67- 7Sep67  
HMM-163 / 8Sep67-15Sep67

ENCLOSURE (1)

2

MCHul 1650  
18 Dec 1968

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", 3dTkBn	
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", 3dEngrBn	
Det "A", Beach Jumper Unit-1	
HMM-164	3Apr67-12Jul67
HMM-262	23Aug67-15Sep67
HMM-265	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	17Jul-15Sep67
Combined Action Company "A"	9Aug65-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon A-1	9Aug65-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon A-2	9Aug65-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon A-3	9Aug65-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon A-6/9	9Aug65-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon A-7	26Feb66-15Sep67
Combined Action Company "H"	27Apr66-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon H-1	12Dec66-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon H-2	7Feb66-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon H-3	7Feb66-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon H-4	20Jun66-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon H-5	4Dec66-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon H-6	4Dec66-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon H-7	16Dec66-15Sep67
Combined Action Platoon H-8	16Dec66-15Sep67
	2Mar67-15Sep67



MCBul 1650  
18 Dec 1968

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)

4

MCEul 1650  
18 Dec 1968

1st Tank Battalion	
"B" Company	14Aug65-28Mar66
"C" Company	5Apr66-26May66
3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion	
"A" Company (-) (Rein)	28Jan66-28May66
1st Engineer Battalion	
"A" Company (-) (Rein)	18Jan66-28Mar66
"C" Company (-) (Rein)	5Apr66-27May66
1st Shore Party Battalion	
"A" Company (-) (Rein)	1May65-30Mar66
"C" Company (-) (Rein)	1Mar65-30Mar66
1st Medical Battalion	
"C" Company (Rein)	14Aug65-28Mar66

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 timeframe 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.