



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

THIRD BATTALION, NINTH MARINES (REINFORCED)  
THIRD MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)  
FLEET MARINE FORCE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service in connection with operations against North Vietnamese Army forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 7 to 12 July 1968. On 7 July the Third Battalion, Ninth Marines, commenced sweeping operations in an area to the west and north of Con Thien along the Demilitarized Zone. The right flank was secured by an adjacent unit, whereas the left flank was unsecured and exposed to the enemy. As the enemy moved on order to seize and occupy assigned objectives, the enemy's tactic was to delay, using rearguard actions and to attack by fire with his supporting arms from within the Demilitarized Zone and from prepared positions in North Vietnam. In six days the Third Battalion, Ninth Marines, successfully executed this combat operation, conducting over 98 small unit patrols and carrying the battle to the enemy. Many of his forces were destroyed and tons of stores and weapons captured with extremely light casualties. During the action, the North Vietnamese Army forces fired on the battalion repeatedly with mortars and artillery. Imbued with an aggressive combat spirit and initiative, and undeterred by heavy hostile artillery and mortar fire, extremely difficult terrain, and incessant heat, the Third Battalion, Ninth Marines, employed courageous ground assaults, and complimented by extensive and accurate air, artillery, and tank support, inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and denied him the military victory he sought to achieve. Through their indomitable spirit, intrepidity, and extraordinary professionalism, the officers and men of the Third Battalion, Ninth Marines, upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

All personnel attached to and serving with Third Battalion, Ninth Marines (Reinforced), during the period designated above, or any part thereof, are hereby authorized to wear the MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION Ribbon.

For the Secretary of the Navy,

  
Commandant of the Marine Corps