

## GENERAL ORDERS

No. 17

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Washington, D.C., 23 April 1968

Section

VALOROUS UNIT CITATION-Awards -----

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*I-VALOROUS UNIT AWARD.* By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under 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 through 4 have been omitted*]:

5. The Valorous Unit Award is awarded by direction of the Secretary of the Army to:  
THE 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 12<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY, 4<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION and attached units:

Battery B, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon; Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion

for extraordinary heroism:

The 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 12<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY, and its assigned and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations from 11 to 13 November 1966 in the central highlands of Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam. When a Vietnamese Mike Force unit made heavy contact with a large North Vietnamese Army Force near the Cambodian border and suffered heavy casualties, the battalion was immediately assigned to relieve the pressure on the besieged friendly forces and establish a fire support base in preparation for an assault landing in the area. Despite intense air strikes and artillery fire on the hostile positions prior to the assault, relentless enemy ground fire raked the helicopters, as they carried the troops into the landing zone., and downed two of the assault aircraft. Fighting gallantly against well-dug-in enemy elements, the valiant men of the 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 12<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY tenaciously forced the hostile troops back and successfully completed a linkup with the Mike Force. After securing the fire support base the following day and moving out to conduct search and destroy operations in the area, the unit was savagely attacked by an enemy force employing automatic weapons and small arms. At the same time, another hostile unit launched a coordinated attack on the fire support base. By aggressive determination and dauntless courage on widely separated fronts, the men of the battalion resolutely defended against the numerically superior forces and decisively repelled them after inflicting severe losses upon them in men and equipment during the intense fighting. Their inexhaustible discipline enabled them to break up and rout the determined enemy. The men of the 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 12<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.