

The President of the United States

takes pleasure in presenting the

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

to

TWENTY-SIXTH MARINES (REINFORCED),
THIRD MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism in action against North Vietnamese Army forces during the battle for Khe Sanh in the Republic of Vietnam from 20 January to 1 April 1968. Throughout this period, the 26th Marines (Reinforced) was assigned the mission of holding the vital Khe Sanh Combat Base and positions on Hills 881, 861-A, 558, and 950, which dominated the strategic enemy approach routes into Northern I Corps. The 26th Marines was opposed by numerically superior forces – two North Vietnamese Army divisions, strongly reinforced with artillery, tank, anti-aircraft artillery, and rocket units. The enemy, deployed to take advantage of short lines of communications, rugged mountainous terrain, jungle, and adverse weather conditions, was determined to destroy the Khe Sanh Combat Base in conjunction with large scale offensive operations in the two northern provinces of the Republic of Vietnam. The 26th Marines, occupying a small but critical area, was daily subjected to hundreds of rounds of intensive artillery, mortar, and rocket fire. In addition, fierce ground attacks were conducted by the enemy in an effort to penetrate the friendly positions. Despite overwhelming odds, the 26th Marines remained resolute and determined, maintaining the integrity of its positions and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. When monsoon weather greatly reduced air support and compounded the problems of air resupply, the men of the 26th Marines stood defiantly firm, sustained by their own professional esprit and high sense of duty. Through their indomitable will, staunch endurance, and resolute courage, the 26th Marines and supporting units held the Khe Sanh Combat Base. The actions of the 26th Marines contributed substantially to the failure of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army winter/spring offensive. The enemy forces were denied the military and psychological victory they so desperately sought. By their gallant fighting spirit and their countless individual acts of heroism, the men of the 26th Marines (Reinforced) established a record of illustrious courage and determination in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

(signed)

Lyndon B. Johnson

Units authorized under this citation for the dates stated.

Marine Units:

26th Marines (Reinforced),

20 Jan 68-1 Apr 68-Vietnam

Consisting of:

Headquarters Company

1st Battalion

2nd Battalion

3rd Battalion

Attached and supporting units:

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1st Prov. 155mm Howitzer Battery

2nd Prov. 155mm Howitzer Battery

Det. 1st Searchlight Battery, 12th
Marines

Det. 3rd Engineer Battalion

Company B, Reconnaissance Battalion

3rd platoon, Company D,
Reconnaissance Battalion

1st Platoon, Company A,
Reconnaissance Battalion

Company A (-), 3rd Anti-Tank Bn,
Redesignated AT Co, (-),
3rd Tank Bn

Det. H&S Company, 3rd Shore Party
Battalion

2nd Clearing Platoon, Company C,
3rd Medical Battalion

Otter Platoon, H&S Company,
3rd Motor Transport Battalion

Det. Company B, 9th Motor Transport
Battalion

Det. Company A, 9th Motor Transport
Battalion

Det. SU #1, 1st Radio Battalion

Det. 3rd Dental Company

Company A, 3rd Shore Party Battalion

Det. Headquarters Company, Headquarters
Battalion, 3rd Marine Division (Postal,
Photo, Exchange, ISO, AO'S, Staff
Augment)

Combined Action Company O, 3rd Combined
Action Group, III MAF

Det. Comm Co., Headquarters Battalion,
3rd Marine Division

Det. 5th Comm Battalion

Det. 7th Comm Battalion

Det. Force Logistics Command

Sub-Team #1, 17th Interrogator Translator
Team

Company B, 3rd Tank Battalion,
3rd Marine Division

Det. "01", HQ and Maintenance Squadron,
Marine Aircraft Group 16

Det. "01", Marine Observation Squadron,
Marine Aircraft Group 16

Det. "2", Marine Air Support Squadron 3,
Marine Air Control Group 18

Det. B, Air Support Radar Team, Marine Air
Support Squadron 3, Marine Air
Control Group 18

Det. HQ and Maintenance Squadron 36,
Marine Aircraft Group 36

Det. Marine Air Base Squadron 36,
Marine Aircraft Group 36

Det. Air Traffic Control Unit 62,
Marine Aircraft Group 36

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364

Marine Observation Squadron 3

Marine Observation Squadron 6

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 363

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164

U. S. Navy units:

Det. B, Construction Battalion Mobile
Unit 301
Det. Mobile Construction Bn 10
Det. Mobile Construction Bn 53
Det. Mobile Construction Bn 5

U. S. Army units:

Det. A-101, 5th Special Forces Group
Det. 44th Artillery
Det. 65th Artillery
Det. 238th Counter-Mortar Radar Unit,
108th Field Artillery Group
Det. 1st Platoon (Smoke),
25th Chemical Company
544th Signal Det., 37th Signal Battalion

U. S. Air Force units:

309th Air Commando Sq.,
315th Air Commando Wing (C-123)
310th Air Commando Sq.,
315th Air Commando Wing (C-123)
311th Air Commando Sq.,
315th Air Commando Wing (C-123)
19th Air Commando Sq.,
315th Air Commando Wing (C-123)
457th Tactical Airlift Squadron,
483rd Tactical Airlift Wing (C-7)
458th Tactical Airlift Squadron,
483rd Tactical Airlift Wing (C-7)
459th Tactical Airlift Squadron,
483rd Tactical Airlift Wing (C-7)
535th Tactical Airlift Squadron,
483rd Tactical Airlift Wing (C-7)
536th Tactical Airlift Squadron,
483rd Tactical Airlift Wing (C-7)
537th Tactical Airlift Squadron,
483rd Tactical Airlift Wing (C-7)

Det. (Operating Location AJ), 15th Aerial Port
Squadron, 20 Jan- 3 Mar 68
Det. 366th Transport Squadron, 366th Combat
Support,
Det. 903rd Aero Med Evac Squadron