

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)

FOR EXTRALORDINARY HEROISM

TO THE

9TH MARINE REGIMENT, 3RD MARINE DIVISION

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

AND ATTACHED UNITS

The assigned and attached units of the 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism, professionalism, and achievement in military action against the North Vietnamese Army in the Da Kroung and Northern A Shau Valleys, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam, during the period 22 January to 18 March 1969. Launched under the code name "Dewey Canyon" the concept of the eight-week offensive was a thrust deep into the enemy's rear area and to destroy a hence fore impregnable major base. A week of inclement weather delayed the surprise attack and halted combat support, resupply, and medical evacuation. When the weather cleared to the extent that the helicopters operations were possible, the Marines found that the enemy had skillfully exploited the delay to strengthen his defenses, position medium range artillery, and otherwise complete preparation of the battlefield. Undaunted, the Marines and their South Vietnamese counterparts drove southward, enduring intense artillery, mortar, and automatic weapons fire, to rout a determined enemy from his fortifications. The Marines repulsed numerous counterattacks in the process of decimating the equivalent of two North Vietnamese Army Regiments. The 9th Marine Regiment and its attached units destroyed the enemy's regional command control apparatus, eliminated a series of headquarters establishments, and inflicted over 1600 casualties on the North Vietnamese Army. The enemy's engineer and transport capabilities were severely diminished. Additionally, the Marines captured over 1000 tons of weapons, equipment and supplies; including individual weapons, Infantry crew-served weapons, anti-aircraft guns, Field Artillery pieces, vehicles, small-caliber ammunition, and rice. As a result of their gallant actions, the North Vietnamese Army Spring Offensive in the I Corps Tactical Zone was preempted. This magnificent feat of arms, achieved against severe odds and seemingly insurmountable obstacles was made possible by the extraordinary courage, skill, cohesion, and fighting spirit of the 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division and its attached units. The superb performance of the Officers and men of this force represents the essence of professionalism, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit on them and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Richard Nixon

[Photograph]

Marines of the 3d Shore Party Battalion prepared ARVN troops to take over fire support bases and landing zones. Some 3d Shore Party Marines are authorized to wear the Army's PUC.

SSgt Marcel D. Graham, Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Decorations and Medals Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps has compiled a listing of supporting units authorized to participate in the award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) to the Ninth Marine Regiment as published by Department of the Army General Order #20 for the period 18 May 1972 to 8 January 1973:

2d Bn (less "F" and "H" Companies) Third Marine Regiment

Co. "C", 3d Engineer Bn.

Co. "A", 3d Shore Party Bn. with Detachment, Co. "B"

Detachment, Co. "C", 11th Engineer Bn.

Detachment, Support Co., 3d Engineer Bn.

Provisional Recon Co., 3d Recon Bn.

Scout Dog Platoon, 3d MP Bn.

Detachment, 4th Platoon, Operations Co., 1st Radio Bn.

Detachment, Naval Mobile CBs 7 and 128, U. S. Navy

Detachment, Comm Co., HqBn.

Detachment, EOD Platoon, FLSG-Bravo

Provisional Rifle Platoon, Quang Tri Combat Base

1st and 3d Provisional Batteries, 12th Marine Regiment

2d Bn., 12th Marine Regiment

Battery "C", 1/83 (artillery) XXIV Corps Artillery, USA

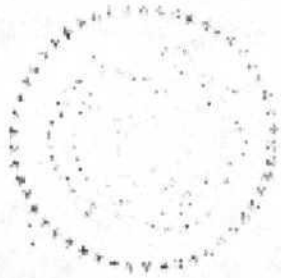
Ninth Marines PUC

Supporting units eligible for the Presidential Unit Citation (Army), awarded to the Ninth Marines, have been announced by HQMC.

Marines who served with or supported the Ninth Marines in Southeast Asia from January 22 to March 18, 1969, are eligible to wear the ribbon.

The units are: 2d Bn. (less "F" and "H" Cos.); 3d Marines; Co. C, 3rd Engineer Bn.; Co. A, 3rd Shore Party Bn.; Detachment, Co. B, 3rd Shore Party Bn.; Detachment, Co. C, 11th Engineers; Detachment, Support Co., 3rd Engineers; Provisional Recon Co.; 3rd Recon Bn.; Scout Dog Plt.; 3rd MP Bn.; Detachment, 4th Platoon, Operations Co., 1st Radio Bn.

Also, Detachment Naval Mobile Construction Bn. 7 and 128 USN; Detachment Comm Co., HqBn.; Detachment, EOD Platoon, FLSG-B; Provisional Rifle Platoon, Quang Tri Combat Base; 1st and 3rd Provisional Btrys., 12th Marines; 2/12, and Btry. C, 1st Bn., 83rd Artillery, XXIV Corps Artillery, U. S. Army.



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FOR EXTRAORDINARY MERIT

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Richard M. Nixon