



**THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON**

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

**THIRD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION (REINFORCED)  
THIRD MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)  
FLEET MARINE FORCE**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service in the Republic of Vietnam from 22 September 1965 to 15 March 1966. Assigned the mission of general support of the Third Marine Division in the Danang, Chu Lai and Phu Bai enclaves, the Battalion conducted numerous reconnaissance missions deep in Viet Cong infested territory for periods of time which steadily increased until the average length of a reconnaissance patrol was 5.5 days. Although the battalion's mission was one of primarily clandestine intelligence gathering, patrols frequently made contact with the enemy. Though lightly armed, the small reconnaissance units accounted for many Viet Cong killed and wounded; and, in addition, located, destroyed and/or captured Viet Cong harboring and training sites, thousands of pounds of salt and grain, numerous weapons, a large quantity of ammunition and many enemy documents. In addition to the tangible items, the intangible effect of the reconnaissance screen in preventing the enemy from massing his forces on the western periphery of the enclaves for a large-scale attack cannot be measured. By their vigorous efforts, aggressive spirit, and individual acts of daring heroism, the men of the Third Reconnaissance Battalion (Reinforced) achieved significant and tangible results, and in so doing they exemplified the qualities of courage and skill which were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



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All personnel attached to and serving with the following units of the 3d Reconnaissance Battalion (Reinforced) during the period 22 September 1965 to 15 March 1966 are hereby authorized to wear the NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION Ribbon.

Headquarters and Service Company

Company A less 2d Platoon detached 4 November 1965 to  
15 March 1966

Company B less 3d Platoon detached 20 November 1965 to  
15 March 1966

Company C

Company D

Company A Headquarters, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion attached  
from 20 January to 15 March 1966

1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion attached  
from 24 December 1965 to 15 March 1966

2d Platoon, Company A, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion attached  
from 21 November 1965 to 15 March 1966

3d Platoon, Company A, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion attached  
from 2 to 15 March 1966

Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion attached from  
22 September 1965 to 15 March 1966

1st Force Reconnaissance Company under operational control  
from 31 October 1965 to 7 December 1965 and from 27 December  
1965 to 15 March 1966

*Paul H. Nitze*  
Secretary of the Navy