

Huy Chương Của **TỔNG THỐNG HOA KỲ.**

MX Đồ Sơn

Năm 2003 tôi được Thiếu Tướng Bùi Thế Lân Tư Lệnh SĐTQLC cho biết là năm 1972 Sư Đoàn TQLC có được đề nghị huy chương của Tổng Thống Hoa Kỳ tưởng thưởng cho BTL/SĐ, 3 Lữ Đoàn TQLC 147, 258 và 369 cùng 9 TĐ tác chiến TQLC từ TĐ1 đến TĐ9 cùng các TĐYT/TQLC và Cố Vấn đoàn TQLC Hoa Kỳ trong SĐ.

Thiếu Tướng yêu cầu tôi liên lạc với cơ quan lưu giữ Hồ Sơ huy chương của chính phủ Hoa Kỳ để nhờ họ truy lục xin bản copy của bản tuyên dương cho Sư Đoàn. Tôi liên lạc với National Archives and Records Administration ở Maryland. Ngày 28 tháng 5 năm 2013 tôi được thư của cơ quan này trả lời và gửi cho tôi một số bản copy về đề nghị huy chương của Tổng Thống Hoa Kỳ ân thưởng cho SĐ/TQLCVN 1972. Hồ sơ Confidential đã được giải mật, gồm những đề nghị của các giới chức liên hệ như sau :

1. Của Thiếu Tướng Howard H. Cooksey Cố Vấn Trưởng Quân Đoàn I.
2. Của Đại Tướng Fred C. Weyand Tư Lệnh Quân Lực Mỹ tại Việt Nam.
3. Của Đại Sứ Mỹ tại VN Ellsworth Bunker.

Tất cả các quý vị nêu trên đã đề nghị chấp thuận và chuyển về Bộ Quốc Phòng Mỹ tháng 12 năm 1972 .

Sau nhiều tháng tìm kiếm vẫn chưa tìm thấy bản Final Decision. Có lẽ lúc ấy vào thời điểm chấm dứt cuộc chiến ở VN tháng 1 năm 73, và Tổng thống Nixon từ chức nên giấy tờ khó tìm vì thời gian đã 43 năm. Mặc dù tôi cũng đã nhờ phía TQLC Hoa Kỳ liên lạc các cơ quan có thẩm quyền bên Lục Quân Mỹ giúp đỡ vì đây là PUC Army do Lục Quân đề nghị .

Tuy nhiên tôi thấy ban Biên Tập ĐSST 2016 cứ đăng những tài liệu nào mà Cơ quan lưu trữ hồ sơ đã cung cấp. Đăng trong ĐSST cho con em thế hệ thứ 2 và 3 đọc để biết công lao của cha ông trong cuộc chiến VN. Các cụ cao niên thì đa số có thể có trở ngại viết tiếng Anh nhưng đọc thì cụ nào cũng có khả năng đọc và hiểu. Cứ đăng nguyên bản trong ĐSST 2016 . Khi nào có thêm tài liệu sẽ bổ túc sau.

Ghi Chú Mục 4 trong bản tuyên dương viết như sau:

The Vietnamese Marine Division victory in Quang Tri City and its tactical excellence sets it apart from, and above other comparable units and attests to its distinctive performance and heroic conduct

Ký tên

HOWARD H. COOKSEY

Major General, US Army Commanding

Đây là vinh dự cho SĐ/TQLCVN trong cuộc chiến. Anh em Mũ Xanh trong Sư Đoàn TQLC và con em họ sẽ hãnh diện về cha ông.

Thủy Quân Lục Chiến



May 28, 2013

Ngo Van Dinh
1873 Oakton Court
San Jose, CA 95148-1113

Mr. Ngo:

Enclosed are copies of the requested pages.

You may wish to contact the Department of Defense. The National Archives and Records Administration does not have the authority to make changes to personnel records. Changes can only be made by the Department of Defense. To correct a military personnel record, use the enclosed DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record) or you may apply online at <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/online-application.cfm>. If you have questions about the form or the process, please write directly to the Army Review Boards Agency, Army Board for Correction of Military Records, 1901 South Bell Street, 2nd Floor, Arlington, VA 22202-4508, which has jurisdiction in such matters.

Sincerely,

LYMAN REID
Archives II Reference Section (RDTR2)
National Archives at College Park, MD

RDTR2 13-07598

MACAG-PD (1 Oct 72) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Presidential Unit Citation

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM,
APO 96222 8 DEC

TO: Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, FPO 96610

1. Recommend approval of the Presidential Unit Citation to the following units for the period 4 April 1972 to 16 September 1972:

1st through 9th Infantry Battalion (9)
147th Brigade Headquarters
258th Brigade Headquarters
369th Brigade Headquarters
Marine Advisory Detachments for the foregoing units

2. Recommend approval of the Valorous Unit Award to all other units assigned to the Vietnamese Marine Division and designated attached units listed in Inclosure 5 of the recommendation for the periods indicated.

3. The concurrence of the United States Ambassador is attached as Inclosure 8.

4. Request expeditious processing of this recommendation. Timely recognition of the heroic actions of the Vietnamese Marine Division and attached units is considered appropriate and in keeping with the mission of the United States Armed Forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

5. Request this headquarters (ATTN: MACAG-PD) be notified of final action taken.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

8 Incl
Added 1 Incl
8. as

RALPH J. MAGLIONE
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Personnel



MEMORANDUM FOR: THE HONORABLE ELLSWORTH BUNKER
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
SAIGON, VIETNAM

SUBJECT: Unit Award

1. Attached is a recommendation for award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the Vietnamese Marine Division and designated attached units for heroism and outstanding achievement during the period 4 April to 16 September 1972.

2. This command proposes to recommend that the Presidential Unit Citation be awarded to the following assigned units of the Vietnamese Marine Division for the period indicated above:

1st through 9th Infantry Battalions
147th Brigade Headquarters
258th Brigade Headquarters
369th Brigade Headquarters
Marine Advisory Detachments to foregoing units

3. This command also proposes to recommend that the Valorous Unit Award be awarded to all other units assigned and attached to the Vietnamese Marine Division for the periods indicated in the recommendation.

4. Request your concurrence in these proposed unit awards.

1 Incl
as

FRED C. WEYAND
General, USA
Commanding



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Saigon, Vietnam
December 1, 1972

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO : General Fred C. Weyand
COMUSMACV

SUBJECT : Unit Award

I concur in the recommendation for award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the Vietnamese Marine Division and designated attached units for heroism and outstanding achievement during the period 4 April to 16 September 1972.

Ellsworth Bunker
Ambassador

Encl: Recommendation for Award

DISPOSITION FORM
For use of this form, see AR 240-15; the proponent agency is The Adjutant General's Office.

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL: _____ SUBJECT: _____

MACAG-PD Unit Award _____

XX THRU MACDP FROM MACAG DATE 1 DEC 1972 CMT 1
 TO MACCS MAJ Lloyd/btt/2274

1. **PURPOSE.** To obtain the signature of COMUSMACV on the memorandum at Tab A, requesting concurrence of the American Ambassador in the recommendation for award to the Vietnamese Marine Division.

2. **DISCUSSION.**

a. At Tab B is a recommendation for award of the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) to the Vietnamese Marine Division and designated attached units.

b. The recommendation has been carefully reviewed by the USMACV Joint Command Awards Board, and it was determined that only the actions of the 1st through 9th Inf Bn, 147th Bde Hq, 258th Bde Hq, 369th Bde Hq, and the Marine Advisory Detachments for the foregoing units have fulfilled the criteria prescribed for the PUC for the period 4 April through 16 September 1972. All other units assigned or attached to the Vietnamese Marine Division have fulfilled the criteria for the Valorous Unit Award for the periods indicated in Inclosure 5 to the attached recommendation at Tab B.

c. Mission policy requires Ambassadorial concurrence in the recommendation for award of US decorations to RVNAF units.

3. **RECOMMENDATION.**

a. That COMUSMACV sign the memorandum at Tab A and that it be returned to this office for dispatch.

b. No historical interest; unit award action within established policy.

2 Incl as

JAMES C. GRIFFITH
 COL, USA
 Adjutant General

COMUS	NOTED	APPROV	SIGNED
DEPCOMUS			X
DEPCORDS			
COFS			
CMC			
CMR			
CMV			
CMW			
CMX			
CMY			
CMZ			

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COPIES
 Department of the National Archives

MACFR-AG 1 October 1972
 SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Presidential Unit Citation

Commanding General
 USARV/MACV Support Command
 ATTN: AVHAG-PA
 APO 96375

1. Pursuant to AR 672-5-1, it is recommended that the Vietnamese Marine Division and designated attached units be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for heroism and outstanding achievement in action against an opposing armed force during the period 25 July 1972 to 16 September 1972 while conducting Operation Song Than 9-72 and for equally outstanding results achieved during the entire course of the operation (4 April 1972 continuing).

2. The Vietnamese Marine Division during the period 25 July 1972 - 16 September 1972 succeeded in recapturing the city of Quang Tri and that portion of Quang Tri Province, RVN, north of the My Chanh river between QL-1 and the South China Sea on a line 2 kilometers north of Quang Tri City northeast to the coast. Elements of the 308th, 312th, 320th, 325th North Vietnamese Divisions, and the 27th Independent Regiment of the B-5 front were decimated making them combat ineffective. The action was characterized by continuous combat. All units were subjected to incessant attacks-by-fire, constant ground attacks and the toughest house to house city fighting of the war. Despite heavy casualties from enemy attacks-by-fire and the tenacity, ferocity, and fanatical attitude of the enemy defense from well prepared, in-depth positions within the city, Vietnamese Marine Division forces distinguished themselves by their sustained outstanding tactical execution and valorous conduct in the face of the unrelenting, well reinforced enemy. The Division Headquarters, located close to the action, allowed Brigade Commanders to direct tactical operations within their areas of operation, while providing immediately responsive command and

Classified By: CG-FRAC
 SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS
 DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1974
 REGRADE UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURE

MACFR-AG 1 October 1972
 SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Presidential Unit Citation

control of all supporting arms, to include B-52 Arcflight Strikes, USAF TAC AIR Sorties, VNAF TAC Air Sorties, US Naval Gun Fire, 1st Armor Brigade elements, and I Corps Artillery. The Division Headquarters provided necessary control, assistance and security to the population of the reoccupied provincial areas utilizing the two territorial task forces (Regional Forces and Popular Forces) attached to the division. The territorial forces released the combat elements to perform the attacking mission by providing all rear area security forces, and actively participated in all attacks and combat operations as guides, reconnaissance and pathfinder teams. The territorial forces performed these war time missions normally expected of an offensive combat unit in an outstanding manner. Division Headquarters' rapid reaction to intelligence, superb integration of combat support, ground tactical maneuver and rear area control were instrumental in achieving the destruction of the enemy in Quang Tri City and the return of a major portion of the province population to the Republic of South Vietnam.

3. Although the tactical results of the fight to take Quang Tri City and the ancient citadel are impressive and have created a great psychological and moral victory over the invaders, the Vietnamese Marine Division has been an instrumental and outstandingly aggressive fighting force since the beginning of the North Vietnamese invasion on 30 March 1972. The 147th and 258th Marine Brigades participated in the defense of Quang Tri City in support of the Third Vietnamese Army Division. The 147th Brigade was among the last units to pull back. The Vietnamese Marine Division established the Hue Defensive Line to the north, at the My Chanh River on the Quang Tri - Thua Thien border. By superb, imaginative use of all available tactical assets, the enemy forces were kept off balance and prevented from massing for an ultimate attack on Hue. The Vietnamese Marine Division line held an enemy assault in the vicinity of QL-1 and prevented the opening of this primary avenue of assault on Hue, the ancient Imperial Capital. The Vietnamese Marine Division conducted spoiling attacks crossing the My Chanh river by helicopter assault, river fording and amphibious, over-the-beach, assault. During each of these spoiling operations an enemy unit was badly mauled. The Vietnamese Marine Division was the primary attacking force which set the stage for the assault and ultimate capture of Quang Tri City. This was accomplished by capturing and controlling, with tactical brilliance and excellence, the coastal and low land portion of southeastern Quang Tri Province. The total effect of the Marine Division's effort thus far in the fight to repulse

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and drive back the North Vietnamese invader is 13,482 KIA, 168 POW for a kill ratio of 8.3: 1.

4. The Vietnamese Marine Division victory in Quang Tri City and its tactical excellence sets it apart from, and above other comparable units and attests to its distinctive performance and heroic conduct.

- SIGNED
 HOWARD H. COOKSEY
 Major General, US Army
 Commanding
- 7 Inclosures
 - 1. Summary of Recommendation
 - 2. Narrative Description
 - 3. Maps
 - 4. Lists of Strengths and Casualties
 - 5. Listing of Units
 - 6. Proposed Citation
 - 7. Intelligence Summary