



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

IN REPLY REFER TO

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

COMPANY F (REINFORCED)  
SECOND BATTALION, FIRST MARINES

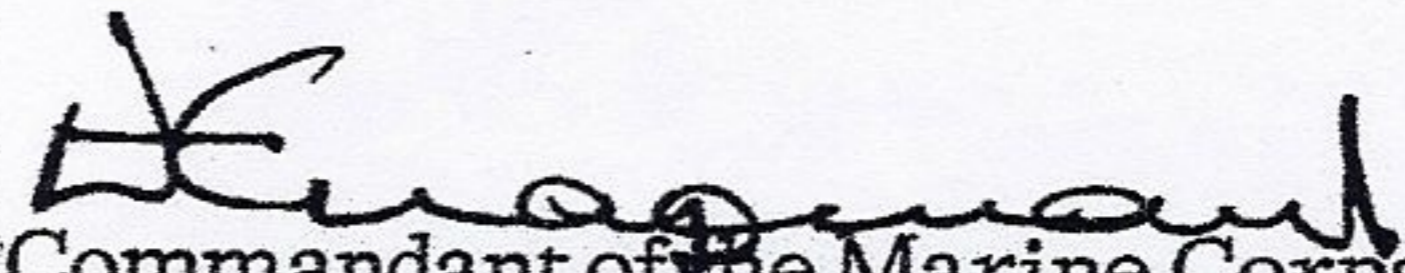
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service in action against the North Vietnamese Army in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 May 1968, Company F (Reinforced), Second Battalion, First Marines, was scheduled to conduct a minesweep of the Khe Sanh Main Supply Route and to provide security for a supply convoy for Landing Zone STUD. The Third Platoon, Company F, reinforced by a section of tanks, departed Khe Sanh and came under intense automatic-weapons and B-40 rocket fire from an enemy force dug in astride the Main Supply Route approximately 1000 meters southwest of the Khe Sanh Combat Base. The Third Platoon returned fire, consolidated its position astride the road, and repelled an enemy assault designed to overrun it. Company F (-) was ordered to join a second section of tanks to reinforce the Third Platoon, which by this time was in extremely heavy contact with an estimated reinforced North Vietnamese Army company. On arrival at the point of contact, Company F (-) (Reinforced), assaulted the enemy force, restored the flanks of the besieged Third Platoon, prevented its complete encirclement, and later established a consolidated perimeter. The enemy was driven back from his second attempt to overrun the company, and as he was preparing for yet a third assault following over four and a half hours of bitter fighting, the officers and men of Company F held their position with determination against a much heavier force. Individual as well as team achievements highlighted the entire engagement. The inspiring valor, teamwork, and professionalism demonstrated by every man involved in the operation were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

All personnel attached to and serving with Company F (Reinforced), Second Battalion, First Marines, on 19 May 1968 in the action described above are hereby authorized to wear the MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION Ribbon.

For the Secretary of the Navy,

  
Commandant of the Marine Corps