

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM
TO
THE RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON
COMPANY E, 4TH BATTALION, 3D INFANTRY
11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAN DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY

The Reconnaissance Platoon, Company E, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th light infantry Brigade distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in action against a hostile force near the hamlet of Phuoc Loc, Quang Ngai, republic of Vietnam on 6 and 7 September 1968. The Platoon of 27 men was conducting a combat sweep operation on 6 September when it became engaged with a Battalion-size enemy force entrenched in fortified defensive positions. Exposed to the heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from the estimated 400-man enemy force, the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon gallantly fought against the numerical odds and established defensive perimeters. Maintaining their position integrity, men of the Platoon, with complete disregard for their own safety, braved the heavy fire to bring their fallen comrades within the perimeter. Although under heavy fire and repeated attacks from the enemy, the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon valorously held their positions, directed airstrikes and artillery fires on the enemy positions, and repulsed all enemy efforts to overrun their defenses. The Platoon was able to engage the enemy force until reinforcements arrived during the early morning hours of 7 September. A sweep of the battlefield on the morning of 7 September revealed that the Reconnaissance Platoon had killed 48 enemy soldiers. Intelligence from captured prisoners indicated that the enemy force had suffered 88 casualties, rendering it ineffective as a fighting force. The Reconnaissance Platoon is credited with spoiling an impending attack on the city of Quang Ngai by discovering and inflicting heavy losses on one of the key enemy forces poised for attack, thereby sparing free world forces and the population of the city of Quang Ngai much loss of life, equipment and personal property. The heroic actions of the men in the Platoon aided in the defeat of major enemy forces which had been poised for attacks on the major cities of Quang Ngai province. The gallantry and devotion to duty of the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon, against numerically superior enemy forces, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.