

As confirmed in Department of the Army General Order 42, 1972, the

VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM

has been awarded by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, for outstanding service during the period
8 February 1971 through 31 March 1971 to:

**THE 16TH AVIATION GROUP and its assigned and attached units:
71st Aviation Company**

The citation unavailable, unit activity was as follows:

The 16th Aviation Group, U.S. Army, under the command of Colonel BENJAMIN S. SILVER, Jr., was tasked with supporting Lam Son 719/Operation Dewey Canyon II while maintaining general and direct support to the 2nd Infantry Division Republic of Vietnam Forces and the 23rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army. The 14th Aviation Battalion (-) deployed to Quang Tri with the 71st, 174th 132nd Aviation Companies, and the 116th, 176th and 178th Aviation Companies were attached to the 123rd Aviation Battalion at Chu Lai. A Battalion Forward was established at Khe Sanh to coordinate operations in support of the 1st Infantry Division, Rangers and Marines of the Republic of Vietnam Forces, and the XXIV Corps, U.S. Army. Operating in an intense anti-aircraft environment, by the end of February, the 14th Aviation Battalion had 17 UH-1H, 5 UH-1C and 5 CH-47 helicopters damaged by enemy fire. In particular, on 3 March 1971, the 71st Aviation Company, augmented by pilots from the 14th Aviation Battalion, led the 174th and two other companies in the assault to establish Landing Zone Lolo. Inserting the 1st Battalion/1st Infantry Regiment in face of horrific air defenses, 11 helicopters were shot down and 44 others were damaged by enemy fire. Again, from 18 to 21 March 1971, the 71st Aviation Company, in a valiant effort to re-supply the besieged 147th Brigade and rescue wounded Marines, had 7 more helicopters damaged by enemy fire, and another shot down in flames. They contributed to heavy enemy losses, including over 12,000 killed, 57 captured, and the seizure of 1,968 crew served weapons and 4,545 individual weapons. By these heroic acts, the 16th Aviation Group has contributed significantly to the combat operations of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, and reflects the utmost credit upon the U.S. Army.