

As confirmed in Department of the Army General Order 43, 1966, the President of the United States has awarded the

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

for extraordinary heroism during the period 10 June to 13 June 1965 to THE 145TH AVIATION BATTALION and attached units: **Company A, 501st Aviation Battalion, 151st Transportation Detachment; 94th Signal Detachment**
The citation reads as follows:

The foregoing units serving with the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in action against insurgent forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 10 June to 13 June 1965. When the besieged defenders of Dong Xoai requested assistance in repelling a vicious Viet Cong attack, the units participating with the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION responded rapidly with support. Upon learning that a group of the defenders of Dong Xoai were wounded, needed medical help, and were exposed to the danger of being overrun by the Viet Cong because of a shortage of ammunition, the crews of three helicopters volunteered to attempt a rescue. Although the insurgents had all approaches covered by .50 caliber machineguns and were directing heavy automatic weapons fire into the compound, the helicopters were flown through the withering fire and landed near the besieged defenders. The helicopter crews kept up a continuous stream of suppressive gun fire while ten Americans and eight Vietnamese were loaded aboard the aircraft and evacuated. The Vietnamese commanders who were evacuated gave valuable information which led to the daring plan to save the village of Dong Xoai. Helicopters of the battalion, standing by at a staging area, were loaded with Vietnamese troops and took off for Dong Xoai. When the Viet Cong met the flight with intense .30 and .50 caliber automatic weapons fire, one helicopter was shot down, killing the entire American crew and ten Vietnamese soldiers. As the fighting continued and three other aircraft were hit, the armed helicopters saturated the Viet Cong positions with rockets and machinegun fire. Although the Viet Cong were beaten back slowly, the helicopters from the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION continued to provide fire support and to perform combat assaults and medical evacuations. A total of 2,700 sorties were flown and 3,500 troops were airlifted or repositioned. The determination, indomitable courage, and extraordinary heroism demonstrated by these units participating with the 145TH AVIATION BATTALION are in the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.