

A Troop, 2d Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment was attached to the 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry, 4th Infantry Division in the Kontum area at the start of the Tet Offensive and awarded the Valorous Unit Award.

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GENERAL ORDERS

No. 43

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 12 August 1970

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I. VALOROUS UNIT AWARD. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraphs 194 and 202.1, AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is confirmed for the following-named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the periods indicated as awarded by cited authority.

12. 1ST BATTALION, 22D INFANTRY and its attached units:

Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry (For the period 4 February 1968 to 10 February 1968)

Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry (For the period 4 February 1968 to 10 February 1968)

Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor (For the period 4 February 1968 to 12 February 1968)

* Troop A, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry

Troop D, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry

Rifle Platoon, Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry

Rifle Platoon, Troop B, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry

Battery C, 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery (For the period 31 January 1968 to 12 February 1968)

https://officialmilitaryribbons.com/pdf/army_general_orders/AGO_1970_43.pdf

The Valorous Unit Award is the second highest United States military unit decoration which may be bestowed upon a military unit after the Presidential Unit Citation and Joint Meritorious Unit Award. It is awarded by the United States Army to units of the United States Armed Forces or nations which display extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States on or after 3 August 1963. Most often, however, it is awarded to US Army Units. The unit degree of heroism required is considered the equivalent of the individual degree of heroism required for the Silver Star which is awarded for gallantry in action. <https://www.military-ranks.org/decorations/army-valorous-unit-award>

A Troop KIA on 1/31/68: Richard Rial, Louis Grove, Dennis Kouhns, Paul Gerlach, Robert Forkl, Glenn Brust, Jan Gillham <https://www.2-1cavalry.com/KIA/KIAbyTroop.pdf>

According to the book "Camp Colt to Desert Storm" page 345 by Donn Starry ": "At Kontum, in the Central Highlands, A Troop, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry, was assaulted repeatedly by an estimated three enemy battalions. The hugely outnumbered troop held its ground, fighting so courageously that it earned a Valorous Unit Award for the Action."

Citation for the Valorous Unit Award

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 883

16 April 1970

AWARD OF THE VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1g(2), AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded to the following named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the periods indicated:

The 1ST BATTALION 22D INFANTRY, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION and its attached units:

Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry (4 February 1968 to 10 February 1968) (First Oak Leaf Cluster)
Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry (4 February 1968 to 10 February 1968)
Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor (4 February 1968 to 12 February 1968)
A Troop, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry
D Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry
Aero Rifle Platoon, A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry
Aero Rifle Platoon, B Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry
C Battery, 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery (31 January 1968 to 12 February 1968)
B Battery, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery (4 February 1968 to 12 February 1968)
3d Platoon, B Company, 4th Engineer Battalion (31 January 1968 to 12 February 1968)

The citation reads as follows:

The 1ST BATTALION, 22D INFANTRY, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION and its attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations in defense of Kontum during the period 30 January 1968 to 12 February 1968. In the early morning hours of 31 January 1968, the men of the unit made contact with the 24th North Vietnamese Army Regiment and attached Viet Cong forces which were attempting to seize the city of Kontum. During the ensuing hours of fierce street fighting, the men of the 1ST BATTALION, 22D INFANTRY, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION inflicted heavy casualties on the determined enemy force. Braving small arms and automatic weapons fire, battalion personnel succeeded in driving the enemy out of the city. Withdrawing rapidly, the enemy occupied previously prepared lines of defense. In these entrenchments and fighting positions, the enemy regrouped and joined with its reserve forces to establish a formidable threat to the future security of the embattled city. Tenaciously, the infantrymen assaulted the enemy lines, and with the support of accurately placed artillery fires, they forced the enemy to abandon his position leaving behind enormous quantities of weapons and communication and medical supplies. The men of the 1ST BATTALION, 22D INFANTRY, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

GEORGE L. MABRY, JR.
Major General, US Army
Chief of Staff

JOHN A. O'BRIEN
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General



Streamer for the Valorous Unit Award as authorized for the 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry
for the Battle of Kontum 1968

<https://1-22infantry.org/history/kontumpageseven.htm>