

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

March 13, 2009

Mr. Gerald E. Patterson
18826 120th Avenue Southeast
Renton, Washington 98058

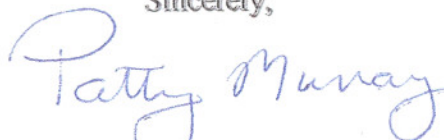
Dear Mr. Patterson:

Enclosed please find a copy of the correspondence forwarded by the Department of the Navy to my Seattle office in response to our inquiry on your behalf. Congratulations on your Presidential Unit Citation! We hope to have the results of our inquiry for your Bronze Star in a few weeks.

If I can be of assistance in any other federal matter, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Brown in my Seattle office at 206-553-5545.

I hope all is well in Renton.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

PMkb



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

Ser DNS-35/9U109090
26 February 2009

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98174

Dear Senator Murray:

This is in response to your inquiry from your constituent, ENCS Gerald E. Patterson, USN(Ret), concerning consideration for the award of the Bronze Star Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

We are pleased to enclosed a copy of the Presidential Unit Citation that Senior Chief Patterson's unit (LCU 1624) was awarded for their actions in Vietnam while assigned to the Marine Corps.

The Chief of Naval Operations' Awards Office is currently reviewing Senior Chief Patterson's award recommendation for the Bronze Star Medal. We anticipate forwarding the Chief of Naval Operations' recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy's Awards Office for final adjudication within the next seven work days.

If we may be of further assistance in the interim, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

B. Wilson
B. WILSON
By direction

Enclosure



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to

FIRST MARINES (-) (REINFORCED)
FIRST MARINE DIVISION

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action against enemy forces during Operation HUE CITY, conducted in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam, from 31 January to 2 March 1968. On 31 January 1968, Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, responded as a reaction force to relieve pressure on beleaguered free world forces in Hue City. As the reaction force moved by vehicle convoy toward the city, it was attacked by two battalions of the North Vietnamese Army and temporarily halted. Receiving reinforcements from Company G, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, and a provisional command group from 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, the reaction force fought its way into the city. Once within the city, it secured various objectives in order to rescue U. S. National and Republic of Vietnam government officials from the north side of the Perfume River. Engaging a numerically superior enemy force, the Marines performed superbly. The attack was a classical example of combat in a built-up area as the majority of the fierce fighting was performed at distances under 35 meters, on streets, in yards, from house to house, room to room, and in hand-to-hand combat. As time passed and the intensity of the fighting increased, the decision was made to declare the action a full-scale operation, and on 2 February control was passed to the 1st Marines. Reacting swiftly to reinforce the units in Hue, the 1st Marines (-) (Reinforced) proceeded from Phu Bai by vehicle convoy to exploit the contact already made. Engaging enemy troops as they drew near, the 1st Marines fought their way into and through the city to the MACV compound to find it under intense attack by a numerically superior force. Immediately deploying, they countered the attack and within 30 minutes placed the enemy on the defensive. The fighting continued and the Marines recaptured the provincial headquarters and hospital while driving the enemy from other critical areas. On 26 February, a portion of the Marines were withdrawn from the Citadel and, upon combining forces with Marines in another portion of the zone of responsibility, began conducting final clearing operations south of the Phu Cam River. Through the remaining four days, the Marines encountered stubborn resistance, but secured the city by 2 March with 1,889 enemy killed. By their effective teamwork, aggressive fighting spirit, and individual acts of heroism and daring, the men of the 1st Marines (-) (Reinforced) soundly defeated a numerically superior enemy force and achieved an illustrious record of courage and skill which was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

Richard Nixon



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

MCBul 1650
DLA-sjg
14 Jul 1970

MARINE CORPS BULLETIN 1650 W/chl

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: Presidential Unit Citation, First Marines (-),
(Reinforced), First Marine Division

Encl: (1) Unit Listing

1. Purpose. To publish the units and detachments which are entitled to the subject award for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty during Operation HUE CITY while serving in the Republic of Vietnam from 31 January to 2 March 1968.

2. Background. The President has approved and presented the subject award at a White House Ceremony. The award was accepted by the Regimental Commander who maintained operational control over Operation HUE CITY.

3. Personnel Eligible. Only those personnel attached to and serving with the units listed in enclosure (1) and, were physically located within the operational area of HUE CITY during the designated period or any part thereof are entitled to the citation and authorization to wear the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon bar with appropriate star by those who have prior award or without star by those entitled to the initial award.

4. Action.

a. For Active Duty Personnel. Commanding officers will review personnel records and authorize eligible personnel under their command to purchase and wear the ribbon bar and also furnish the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL) with the number of such personnel in order that facsimiles of the citation can be furnished when available. When requesting facsimiles, reference this Bulletin and give the name of the unit with which they were serving.


b. For Inactive Personnel. The Commandant of the Marine Corps will announce through all available news media

MCBul 1650
14 Jul 1970

the award of the subject Presidential Unit Citation, and by such media will furnish similar instructions to separated personnel concerning the method of applying for the award.

5. Reserve Applicability. This Bulletin is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.

6. Self-Cancellation. 31 December 1970.



E. E. ANDERSON
By direction

DISTRIBUTION: "A"

UNIT LISTING

MCBul 1650
14 Jul 1970

*First Marines (-) (Reinforced), First Marine Division (Operation HUE CITY, VIETNAM) consisting of: 31Jan-2Mar68

Detachment, Headquarters Company, 1st Marines 1Feb-2Mar68
 Detachment, 3d Interrogator-Translator Team 1Feb-2Mar68
 Detachment, 13th Interrogator-Translator Team 2Feb-2Mar68
1st Battalion (-) (Reinforced) 1st Marines
 Detachment, H&S Company and Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines 31Jan-2Mar68
 Company B(-), 1st Battalion, 1st Marines 1Feb-2Mar68
 Company F, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines 1Feb-3Feb68
 Company G, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines 31Jan-3Feb68
 Company H, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines 2Feb-3Feb68
 1st Battalion (-), 11th Marines 31Jan-2Mar68
 Rear Echelon, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines 31Jan-2Mar68
1st Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 5th Marines
 Detachment, H&S Company and Company "B", 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 11Feb-2Mar68
 Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 10Feb-2Mar68
 Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 12Feb-2Mar68
 Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 14Feb-2Mar68
 Company L, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines 21Feb-2Mar68
2d Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 5th Marines
 H&S Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines 4Feb-2Mar68
 Companies G and H, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines 4Feb-2Mar68
 Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 12Feb-13Feb68

Antitank Company (-), 1st Tank Battalion 31Jan68
 Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion (-) (Rein) 1Feb-28Feb68
 Detachment, 1st Shore Party Battalion 1Feb-2Mar68
 Detachment, 1st Motor Transport Battalion 1Feb-2Mar68
 Detachment, Mortar Battery X-Ray, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines 10Feb-2Mar68
 Detachment, Battery E, 2d Battalion, 11th Marines 21Feb-2Mar68
 Detachment, 1st Counter-Intelligence Team, 1st Marine Division 31Jan-7Feb68
 Battery D, 2d Battalion, 11th Marines 12Feb-2Mar68
 Detachment, 1st Military Police Company, 1st Marine Division 12Feb-2Mar68
 1st Platoon, 3d Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Battalion 5Feb-12Feb68
 Detachment, Headquarters Company, 5th Marine Regiment 12Feb-2Mar68
 Detachment, 3d Motor Transport Battalion, 3d Marine Division 31Jan-2Mar68

ENCLOSURE (1)

MCBul 1650
14 Jul 1970

Detachment, Task Force X-Ray Headquarters	31Jan-2Mar68
Detachment, 1st Field Artillery Group 11th Marine Regiment	31Jan-2Mar68
Detachment, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division (1st Division Awards Contact Team)	21Feb-28Feb68

U.S. Navy Units and Ships:

Detachment, Mobile Construction Battalion-8	22Feb-28Feb68
Detachment, Mobile Construction Battalion-121	12Feb- 2Mar68
Detachment, River Group-521	5Feb-2Mar68
Naval Support Activity Hue Ramp Detachment	31Jan-2Mar68
<u>U.S. Naval Support Activity Lighterage Craft</u>	
<u>LCU/YFU (By Hull Number)</u> -4, 7, 12, 52, 54, 55, 56, 56, 57, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 1475, 1481, 1482, 1484, 1485, 1494, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1576, 1582, 1614, 1619, 1622, 1624, 1615	
<u>LCM-6 Craft (By Hull Number)</u> -2, 3, 7, 12, 13, 14, 16	
<u>LCM-8 Craft (By Hull Number)</u> -798, 826, 850, 871, 920, 923, 925, 926, 937	

U.S. Army Units

Detachment, Battery D, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery	31Jan-13Feb68
<u>The following Army components attached to the Naval Support Activity, Danang</u>	
329th Transportation Company (Heavy Boat)	
97th Transportation Company (Heavy Boat)	
<u>LCU/YFU Craft (By Hull Number)</u> -1508, 1535, 1556, 1563, 1569, 1571, 1575, 1580, 1589, 1574 1534	

ENCLOSURE (1)

The **Presidential Unit Citation**, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the Armed Forces of the United States and allies for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941 (the date of the Attack on Pearl Harbor and the start of American involvement in World War II). The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and *esprit de corps* in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross to an individual.