

MEMBERS OF THE 4TH INFANTRY DETACHMENT (WAR DOG PROVISIONAL) :

I WANT TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU THAT THE WORDS YOU HAVE JUST HEARD ARE NOT HOLLOW PRAISE. THE TRIBUTE THAT WE PAY TO YOU AT THIS CEREMONY HONORING THE SCOUT AND TRACKER DOG PLATOONS OF THE WAR DOG DETACHMENT IS REAL AND HEARTFELT.

IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO CREATE A UNIT. WE BRING TOGETHER THE PROPER EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, AND IN THIS CASE YOUR FINE ANIMALS, AND TRAIN THEM TO OPERATE TOGETHER IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED DOCTRINE. THEN WHEN IT PERFORMS OUTSTANDINGLY, AS YOU HAVE DONE, IT IS A JOY TO BEHOLD. IT IS EQUALLY DISTRESSING TO SEE SUCH A CAREFULLY NURTURED UNIT, IN WHICH SO MANY HAVE INVESTED THEIR ENERGIES, BE INACTIVATED. BUT IT IS ONLY A TEMPORARY LOSS, FOR SUCH MEN AS YOU WILL GO ON TO OTHER UNITS, OR TO CIVILIAN LIFE, AND THERE CONtribute YOUR DEMONSTRATED SKILLS, COURAGE, AND DETERMINATION TO THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COUNTRY AND ITS SECURITY.

YOU HAVE SERVED WITH DISTINCTION DURING THE FOUR YEARS WITH THE DIVISION, AND THE NUMEROUS AWARDS AND DECORATIONS ^{presented} ~~made~~ TO BOTH THE MEN * AND DOGS OF THE UNIT ATTEST TO THAT.

THE REAL TRIBUTE OF COURSE COMES FROM THE 11B'S WITH WHOM YOU HAVE HABITUALLY OPERATED AS PROFESSIONAL POINT MAN. IT IS HERE THAT THE TRUE MEASURE OF A UNIT IS MADE. YOU HAVE NOT FAILED THEM.

LEAVE THE DIVISION WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE EARNED THE RESPECT OF YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS. TAKE PRIDE AND SELF-SATISFACTION IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATION'S SECURITY AND THE FREEDOM OF THIS LAND, FOR YOU HAVE SERVED WITH HONOR.

ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE DIVISION, AND ESPECIALLY GENERAL BURKE, OUR DIVISION COMMANDER, I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR EFFORT.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 2D BATTALION, 8TH INFANTRY:

THAT RECORD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS HAS GIVEN MUSCLE TO THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S BOAST OF BEING THE "FIGHTING FOURTH". FROM THE TIME YOUR UNIT ARRIVED IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CLAIMED THE DIVISION'S FIRST KILL, IT HAS BEEN IN THE VANGUARD OF DIVISION OPERATIONS. EVEN YOUR NICKNAME, THE PANTHERS, CHARACTERIZES NOT ONLY THE SPEED AND MOBILITY OF YOUR UNIT BUT ALSO THE FEAR WHICH YOU STRUCK IN THE HEARTS OF THE ENEMY WHEREVER YOU OPERATED.

AS ADC-M I'VE WATCHED YOUR UNIT IN THE FIELD MANY TIMES AND KNOW PERSONALLY THAT YOUR VERY PRESENCE WAS SUFFICIENT TO CAUSE THE ENEMY TO SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE HIS PLANS AND CEASE OPERATIONS AGAINST OBJECTIVES THAT HE HAD LONG PREPARED TO ATTACK.

IT HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY EVIDENT TO ME THAT THE MEN OF 2D OF THE 8TH LIVED, WORKED, AND FOUGHT EXTREMELY WELL AS A UNIT. BUT I ALSO NOTICED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE UNIT WAS DUE TO THE SUPREME EFFORT PUT FORTH BY ^{individual} ITS MEMBERS. EACH MAN HAS REASON TO LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. YOUR VALOR AND PROFESSIONALISM HAVE EARNED YOU MANY ACCOLADES. THE FACT THAT THE BATTALION HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR A PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION—THE HIGHEST UNIT CITATION FOR VALOR THAT CAN BE AWARDED—IS TESTIMONY TO THIS.

IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO CREATE ^{such} A UNIT. WE BRING TOGETHER THE PROPER EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL AND TRAIN THEM TO OPERATE TOGETHER IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED DOCTRINE. THEN WHEN IT PERFORMS OUTSTANDINGLY, AS YOU HAVE DONE, IT IS A JOY TO BEHOLD. IT IS EQUALLY DISTRESSING TO SEE SUCH A CAREFULLY NURTURED UNIT, IN WHICH SO MANY HAVE INVESTED THEIR ENERGIES, BE INACTIVATED. BUT IT IS ONLY A TEMPORARY LOSS, FOR SUCH MEN AS YOU WILL GO ON TO OTHER UNITS, OR TO CIVILIAN LIFE, AND THERE CONTRIBUTE

YOUR DEMONSTRATED SKILLS, COURAGE, AND DETERMINATION TO THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COUNTRY AND ITS SECURITY.

PRIOR TO CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE JUST A MOMENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE GALLANT MEN OF THE BATTALION WHO HAVE MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE. THE SADNESS OF REMEMBERING THEM IS TEMPERED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY DIED HONORABLY AND BRAVELY. LET EACH OF US RESOLVE THAT THEY SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN AND HOPE THAT SOMEDAY IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, THE ULTIMATE TESTIMONY TO YOUR SUCCESS WILL OCCUR—THAT OF PEACE AGAIN COMING TO THIS ANCIENT LAND AND THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BEING FREE TO LIVE AS THEY CHOOSE.

AND SO, TO YOU, COLONEL GAZLAY, AND TO ALL OF YOU MEN, ON BEHALF OF MAJOR GENERAL BURKE AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION, LET ME SAY THAT IT HAS BEEN A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE SERVED WITH AND BESIDE YOU. TO EACH OF YOU WE WISH GOOD LUCK, GOD SPEED AND SUCCESS IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

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THAT RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT BELONGS TO A UNIQUE UNIT OF THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION. YOUR UNIT, CHARLIE COMPANY OF THE 4TH ENGINEER BATTALION, PREDATED THE DIVISION'S ARRIVAL IN VIETNAM BY OVER 10 MONTHS AND HAS NOW SERVED HERE CONTINUOUSLY FOR JUST ONE MONTH SHORT OF FIVE YEARS. TODAY, BECAUSE OF YOUR ~~SUCCESS~~^{achievement}, WE GATHER IN CEREMONY TO YOUR SUCCESS.

DURING THIS FIVE YEAR PERIOD, YOUR UNIT PARTICIPATED IN EVERY MAJOR OPERATION UNDERTAKEN IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. THE EARLY DAYS WERE FILLED WITH HEROISM AS THE ALLIED FORCES FOUGHT DESPERATELY TO SHORT CIRCUIT THE MASSIVE NVA INVASION WHICH THREATENED TO CUT THE COUNTRY IN TWO. THE MOST DECISIVE BATTLES OF THE WAR WERE FOUGHT AT THAT TIME AND THE ENEMY WAS REBUFFED SUCCESSFULLY. THIS ALLOWED TIME, FIRST FOR US TO BUILD UP OUR COMBAT STRENGTH AND, SECONDLY, FOR ARVN AND THE GVN TO BEGIN THE MASSIVE RECUPERATION AND RECONSTRUCTION NECESSARY FOR THEM TO PRESERVE THEIR FREEDOM AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

TIME AFTER TIME THE ENEMY ATTEMPTED TO RECOVER HIS POSITION CULMINATING FINALLY IN THE ENEMY'S DESPERATE LUNGE DURING TET OF 1968. EACH TIME, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FAILED IN THEIR OBJECTIVES, SUFFERED ENORMOUS LOSS OF LIFE AND WAR MATERIEL AND WERE FORCED AGAIN BACK TO THEIR REMOTE SANCTUARIES. EACH TIME CHARLIE COMPANY WAS THERE TO HELP THE INFANTRY BLUNT THE ATTACK, PURSUE THE ENEMY AS HE WITHDREW, AND THEN RECONSTRUCT THAT WHICH HAD BEEN DAMAGED AND CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT THE FIREBASES AND ROADS NEEDED TO FURTHER LIMIT THE ENEMY'S CHANCE OF SUCCESS ON HIS NEXT ATTEMPT.

NOW THE TIME HAS COME THAT WE HAVE WORKED FOR AND SOME OF YOUR BROTHER ENGINEERS AND PREDECESSORS IN CHARLIE COMPANY HAVE DIED FOR. THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND ITS ARMY HAVE GAINED THE STRENGTH NEEDED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES

FROM EXTERNAL FORCE AND ALLOW THE PEACEFUL REVOLUTION WHICH HAS BEEN INITIATED IN THIS COUNTRY TOWARD REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, TO EVOLVE ~~INTO~~ REVOLUTION.

YOU CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF YOUR SERVICE HERE AND THE SERVICE OF YOUR FINE UNIT. YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN A VERY REAL SENSE ~~AND~~ A PHYSICAL SENSE -- TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD FOR YOUR SONS AND GRANDSONS. YOU MET YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A FREE MAN, USED ACTION TO BACK UP YOUR IDEALS, AND PROVED YOURSELVES WORTHY OF YOUR COUNTRY'S GRATITUDE AND HONORS. I KNOW YOU HAVE ACTED BECAUSE WHEREVER I HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE TROOPS OF CHARLIE COMPANY -- ON THE FIREBASES, ON THE ROADS, ON THE PROJECTS HERE AT RADCLIFF -- YOU HAVE BEEN BUSILY, QUIETLY AND COMPETENTLY AT WORK; BUILDING, HELPING, SUPPORTING.

YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSIONS WITHOUT FAIL AND IN SO DOING HAVE ENABLED THE DIVISION AND THE U. S. ARMY IN VIETNAM TO SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISH THEIRS.

AND SO, TO YOU, LIEUTENANT POST, AND TO ALL OF YOU MEN, ON BEHALF OF MAJOR GENERAL BURKE AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION, LET ME SAY THAT IT HAS BEEN A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE SERVED WITH AND BESIDE YOU. TO EACH OF YOU WE WISH GOOD LUCK, GOD SPEED AND SUCCESS IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF COMPANY C 4TH MEDICAL BATTALION:

THAT RECORD THAT YOU HAVE JUST HEARD IS ONE IN WHICH YOU MAY ALL TAKE PRIDE. IT IS FITTING THAT YOUR COMPANY IS THE FIRST UNIT OF THE 4TH MEDICAL BATTALION TO BE RECOGNIZED ON THIS PARADE GROUND, AS IT WAS THE FIRST MEDICAL COMPANY TO ARRIVE IN VIETNAM AS PART OF THE 4TH DIVISION. YOU CAN BE PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

IN MY POSITION AS ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDER-MANEUVER, I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DAILY VISITS TO THE FIELD AND TO TALK TO SOLDIERS AT ALL LEVELS. I ASSURE YOU THAT THEY SHARE WITH ME AN ADMIRATION FOR THE SKILLFUL TREATMENT AND COMFORT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO THEIR COMRADES WHO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED AND INJURED ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

I CAN SAY WITHOUT FEAR OF CONTRADICTION THAT THE MEN OF CHARLIE COMPANY HAVE ALWAYS PERFORMED THEIR MISSION WITH PROFESSIONALISM AND DETERMINATION. FROM THE SEEMINGLY MUNDANE TASKS OF FIELD SANITATION AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE TO THE PROMPT AND EFFICIENT TREATMENT OF WOUNDED MEN, THE DOCTORS, MEDICS, AMBULANCE DRIVERS, MEDICAL SERVICE AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED HIGHLY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S MISSION IN VIETNAM.

NEVER WAS THIS MORE EVIDENT THAN AT NEW PLEI DJERENG LAST MAY. THERE CHARLIE COMPANY FULFILLED THE CONVENTIONAL ROLE OF TRIAGE, STABILIZATION, AND EVACUATION, PROVIDING THE MEANS OF PROLONGING THE LIVES OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

ONE OF THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THIS CONFLICT IS TO HELP BETTER THE LIVES OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. EVEN THOUGH YOUR COMPANY HAS BEEN TAXED WITH COMBAT OPERATIONS, YOU HAVE PROMOTED THIS AIM WITH MEDICAL SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. THIS IS DRAMATICALLY EVIDENCED BY YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE AN TUC DISPENSARY. YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT ALTHOUGH YOU WILL SOON DEPART, YOU WILL BE LONG REMEMBERED BY THE PEOPLE

OF THIS LAND FOR THE HELP YOU PROVIDED.

YOU MEN CAN BE PROUD TO HAVE SERVED WITH AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS PERFORMED SO NOBLE A TASK FOR YOUR COMRADES. NO ONE CAN OVER-EMPHASIZE THE GOOD THAT IS DONE IN PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES TO OTHERS—YOU HAVE PROVIDED THESE SERVICES. WHEREVER YOU GO, TO OTHER UNITS IN VIETNAM OR HOME TO CIVILIAN LIFE, I'M SURE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE YOUR UNIT OR COMMUNITY AND IN TURN OUR COUNTRY IN THE SAME SKILLED AND DEDICATED MANNER.

ON BEHALF OF GENERAL BURKE AND ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 4TH DIVISION, I SAY THANK YOU, GOOD LUCK, AND GOD SPEED.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY

THIS CEREMONY IS TO BID FAREWELL TO A VERY SPECIAL UNIT OF THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION -- SPECIAL IN THAT YOUR UNIT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DIVISION FOR THE LAST 44 YEARS. IT HAS PROVIDED THE SKILL AND FEROCITY THAT HAS EARNED THE DIVISION ITS NICKNAME, "THE FAMOUS FIGHTING FOURTH."

FROM THE TIME YOUR UNIT ARRIVED IN SOUTH VIETNAM, IT HAS BEEN IN THE VANGUARD OF THE DIVISION'S OPERATIONS. THE BATTALION HAS SEEN NEARLY EVERY PHASE OF THIS WAR -- FROM THE BIG, SET PIECE BATTLES OF 1966 AND 1967, TO THE LARGE UNIT SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSIONS OF 1968 AND 1969, TO THE MORE RECENT SATURATION AMBUSH AND PATROL PHASE. WHEREVER THE DIVISION MOVED -- TUY HOA, PLEI DJERANG, KONTUM, PLEIKU, AN KHE -- THE 1ST OF THE 22ND WAS ALWAYS THERE.

IN MY POSITION AS COMMANDING GENERAL, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE FREQUENT VISITS TO YOUR ELEMENTS IN THE FIELD, AND HAVE PERSONNALLY WATCHED YOUR MANEUVER ELEMENTS AT WORK AGAINST A DETERMINED AND WILY ENEMY. I CAN SAY WITHOUT RESERVATION THAT YOURS IS ONE OF THE FINEST BATTALIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

IT HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY EVIDENT TO ME THAT THE MEN OF THE 1ST OF THE 22ND LIVED, WORKED, AND FOUGHT EXTREMELY WELL AS A UNIT. BUT I ALSO NOTICED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE UNIT WAS DUE TO THE SUPREME EFFORT PUT FORTH BY EACH ONE OF ITS MEMBERS. ALL OF YOU HAVE REASON TO LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE ON YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. YOUR VALOR AND PROFESSIONALISM HAVE EARNED YOU MANY ACCOLADES.

AS WE STAND HERE TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO RECALL THE REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE IN WHOSE MEMORY YOU WEAR THE BLACK SCARVES -- THE BRAVE MEN WHO DIED WHILE VALIANTLY UPHOLDING THE BATTALION'S TRADITION. THEY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

EITHER BY THE 4TH DIVISION OR BY THE 1ST OF THE 22ND INFANTRY -- THEY ARE
FOREVER REGULARS, BY GOD

YOU ARE NOW PREPARING TO LEAVE THE FOURTH DIVISION FOR A NEW MISSION --
A VITAL MISSION. YOUR SKILLS, YOUR DETERMINATION, AND YOUR VALOR WILL AGAIN
BE PROVEN. OF THAT I AM SURE. WE WHO HAVE SERVED BESIDE YOU IN THE 4TH
DIVISION, KNOW THAT THE ~~REGULARS, BY GOD,~~ WILL PREVAIL.

"Deeds, not words"