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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 701

17 March 1970

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

1. 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 period indicated:

The 588TH ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT)(ARMY) and its attached units:

104th Engineer Company (Dump Truck)
362d Engineer Company (Light Equipment)

The citation reads as follows:

The 588TH ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT)(ARMY) and its attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period 18 November 1967 through 23 February 1968 in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam. Assigned to upgrade main supply routes and construct critically needed airfields and Special Forces/Civilian Irregular Defense Group camps at Thien Ngon and Katum, the officers and men of the battalion battled intense enemy resistance while providing outstanding combat engineer support to the 25th Infantry Division. As unit personnel aggressively attacked the cutting of the dense jungle undergrowth to prepare cleared areas large enough to set up their defensive positions and begin construction, they were subjected to constant concentrations of rocket, mortar and small arms fire. With uncommon tenacity and quick responsiveness, the members of the 588TH ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT)(ARMY) effectively countered daily emergency situations and courageously maintained a firm dedication to mission accomplishment. Despite severe losses of manpower and equipment as a result of continual enemy attacks, ambushes, mines and booby-traps, they dealt a serious blow to the enemy by efficiently completing all engineering responsibilities and establishing a foothold in previously communist dominated territory. Through their unrelenting perseverance, steadfast determination and indomitable fighting spirit, they contributed immeasurably to the success of Operation YELLOWSTONE and significantly advanced the combat mission of the 25th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam. The extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 588TH ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT)(ARMY) 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.