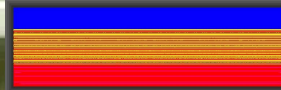
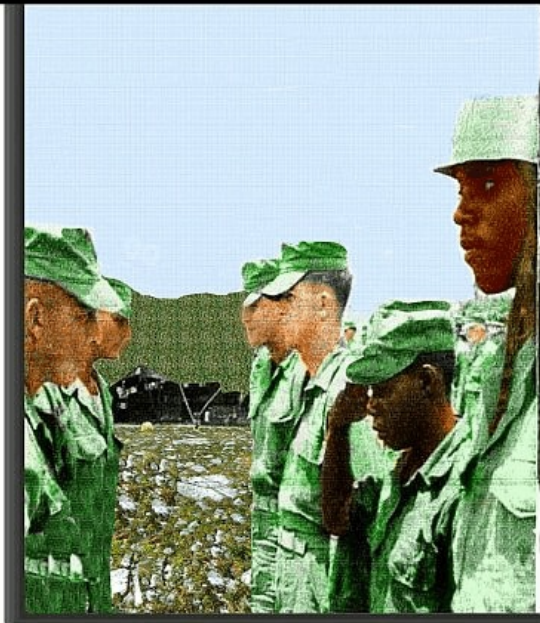


A 1966 Vietnam photo painting of 3RD Battalion, 1ST Marines 1ST Marine Division Marines being honored after operation Utah, and received word of the Presidential Unit Citation. Chapter 28 Montford Point Marine President James E. Stewart Jr. awaits his turn at far right.



1966 Vietnam 3RD Battalion, 1ST Marines 1ST Marine Division Marines being honored after operation Utah, and received word of the Presidential Unit Citation

Presidential Unit Citation Eligibility Requirements

Awarded in the name of the President of the United States to units of the Armed Forces of the United States and co-belligerent nations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy. The unit must have displayed such gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions to have 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 be required for award of a Navy Cross to an individual. The Navy Cross is the highest decoration that may be bestowed by the Department of the Navy and the second highest decoration given for valor.

Presidential Unit Citation

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION
to the
THIRD MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action against the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 8 March 1965 to 15 September 1967. Throughout this period, the Third Marine Division (Reinforced), operating in the five northernmost provinces of the Republic of Vietnam, successfully executed its three-fold mission of occupying and defending key terrain, seeking out and destroying the enemy, and conducting an intensive pacification program. Operating in an area bordered by over 200 miles of South China Sea coastline, the mountainous Laotian border and the demilitarized Zone, the Third Marine Division (Reinforced) successfully executed eighty major combat operations, carrying the battle to the enemy, destroying many of his forces, and capturing thousands of tons of weapons and materiel. In addition to these major operations, more than 125,000 offensive counter guerrilla actions, ranging from squad patrols and ambushes to company-sized search and destroy operations, were conducted in both the coastal rice lands and the mountainous jungle inland. These bitterly contested actions routed the enemy from his well-entrenched positions, denied him access to his source of food, restricted his freedom of movement, and removed his influence from the heavily populated areas. In numerous operations, the Third Marine Division (Reinforced) demonstrated the great efficacy of combined operations with units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. In July 1966, the Third Marine Division (Reinforced) moved to the north to counter major elements of the North Vietnamese Army moving across the Demilitarized Zone. Imbued with an unrelenting combat spirit and initiative and undeterred by heavy hostile artillery and mortar fire, extremely difficult terrain, incessant heat and monsoon rains, the Third Marine Division (Reinforced), employing courageous ground, heliborne and amphibious assaults, complemented by intense and accurate air, artillery and naval gunfire support, inflicted great losses on the enemy and denied him the political and military victory he sought to achieve at any cost. The outstanding courage, resourcefulness and aggressive fighting spirit of the officers and men of the Third Marine Division (Reinforced) in battle after battle against a well-equipped and well-trained enemy, often numerically superior in strength, and the great humanitarianism constantly shown to the peoples of the Republic of Vietnam, reflected great credit upon the Marine Corps and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

On 28 January 1966, the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines landed on a broad, white beach in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam. The battalion was an element of Operation Double Eagle, the largest amphibious landing in a combat theater since the Marines landed at Inchon in the Korean War. Weeks later they were designated a "Ready Reaction Force," and on the afternoon of 4 March 1966, our 36th day in South Vietnam, helicopters inserted India, Lima, and Mike companies into a killing zone where they would make history in Operation Utah. For the first time, the Marines would engage soldiers of the Peoples' Vietnam Army (PVA**). They would defeat the formidably armed Communists, but at a terrible cost of dead and wounded. I James E Stewart Jr. was a machine

gunner in Mike Company. I served in Vietnam from January 1966, to December 1966, and was honored with two Presidential Unit Citations, and other awards while serving in Mike, 3/1. We of the **THUNDERING THIRD** participated in seven major combat operations in our first 90 Days in Vietnam.

Mike Company, 3RD Battalion, 1ST. Marines earned the following awards during their deployment in Vietnam between the years of 1966 and 1971.

<http://www.3onevet.com/mikecohistory.htm>

Four Presidential Unit Citations (Two awards in 1966)

One Naval Unit Citation

One National Defense Service Citation with One Bronze Star

One Vietnamese Service Citation with Two Silver Stars and Two Bronze Stars

One Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with One Palm.

One Vietnamese Meritorious Unit Citation

One Vietnamese Civil Action Award

I also hope theses Citations will serve as a memorial to those members of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines who landed on the shores of Vietnam between the years of 1966 and 1971, but were not able, ever, to return home.

James E Stewart Jr.

Webster Junior High Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Central High School Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Member Football, Basketball, Track Teams)

Oklahoma State University, (Member Track Team)

United States Marine Corps 1965 - 1969 (Mike 3/1 Vietnam 1966)

United States Marine Corps, All-Marine Track Team Member

United States Marine Corps , Inter-Service Track Team Member

University Of The District Of Columbia, (Member Football, Basketball, Track Teams)

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges 1973

Teacher, & Track Coach D.C. Public School System

Track & Football Coach, University Of The District Of Columbia

Track Coach Howard University

Veterans Of Foreign Wars, Life member & Past Post Commander 9619

Montford Point Marines Life Member, President Maryland Chapter 28

Montford Point Marines, National Bylaws Committee member

Montford Point Marines, National Museum Board member

Montford Point Marines, National Ways & Means Committee member

Montford Point Marines, Man Of The Year 2004