



By direction of the Secretary of the Army, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the

1ST BATTALION, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service:

The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and its assigned and attached units, distinguished themselves in the conduct of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam from 5 May 1965 to 16 May 1966 while attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) of the United States Army. As the first ground combat unit in-country, the 173d Airborne Brigade and its assigned and attached units conducted extensive combat maneuvers in the Bien Hoa area and in the Viet Cong strongholds of War Zone D and the Iron Triangle during the period 5 May 1965 to 4 May 1967. In every confrontation with the stubborn insurgents, the 173d Airborne Brigade displayed marked aggressiveness which enabled them to neutralize enemy strongholds and capture thousands of logistical items. In addition to remarkable skill and tenacity in combat, the sky soldiers of the brigade carried on an extensive civic action program characterized by sincere compassion for the suppressed local populace. During each of the brigade's combat operations, the sky soldiers immeasurably aided the allied counterinsurgency effort by winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 173d Airborne Brigade are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves, the Armed Forces of the United States, and the Armed Forces of Australia and New Zealand.

