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Description

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the U.S. military and its allies for extraordinary acts of heroism during battle. During ceremonies at Camp Pendleton, President Richard Nixon awards the citation to the officers of the 1st Marine Division for its service during the Vietnam War.

Keywords

Presidential Unit Citation, Award, Citation, First Marine Division, 1st Marine Division, Marines, President, Richard Nixon, Ceremony, Speech, Address, Camp Pendleton, California, Vietnam War, Southeast Asia, Communism, International, Foreign, Affairs, Diplomacy, Prisoner of War, POW, Withdrawal, Presidency, Commander in Chief, Executive Branch
Citation

MLA

APA

CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE

Transcript

President Nixon Awards Presidential Unit Citation to Marines

Unidentified Man: And, now it is my great honor and privilege to introduce our Commander in Chief, the President of the United States. Mr. President.

President RICHARD NIXON: General Chapman, Secretary Warner, all of the distinguished guests on the platform, officers and men of the 1st Marine Division, and my fellow Americans here in attendance, and those listening on television and radio.

This is one of the proudest moments of my service as President of the United States, to be here for this ceremony—to award this unit citation, the eighth unit citation this division has received in its long and proud history, to the 1st Marine Division, and to welcome home the major elements of that division from Vietnam.

As I welcome you home, I can say to you that the nation is proud of you. I can say to you, you come home mission accomplished.

When you went to Vietnam five years ago, you found a country there with millions of South Vietnamese under Communist rule, and the whole country threatened by a Communist takeover.

As you return, you left a South Vietnam, with the South Vietnamese now assuming the major burden of their own defense, and soon developing the capability for their complete defense without the assistance of American fighting men.

Because of your service, and the service of other Americans, we can now say that Americans can continue to be withdrawn at approximately, or almost at, a division a month. And because of your service, and the service of other Americans, we can set as our goal, and achieve the goal, of the total withdrawal of all
Americans. That goal to be achieved when the South Vietnamese have developed, as they will develop, the capability of defending themselves, and when we have returned all of our prisoners of war, wherever they may be in Southeast Asia.