

BATTLE HISTORY

and

UNIT CITATIONS

of the

**INTERROGATOR TRANSLATOR TEAMS
INTERROGATOR TRANSLATOR PLATOONS
INTERROGATOR TRANSLATOR UNITS
and
INTERPRETER TEAMS (Vietnam Era)**



ITT LINEAGE & HONORS

Policy: Awards are important symbols of public recognition for rewarding extraordinary heroism, exceptionally meritorious service, or outstanding achievement and other acts or services which are above and beyond that normally expected and which distinguish an individual or unit among those performing similar acts or services. Awards are intended to recognize exceptional performance and valor.

Purpose: To foster unit morale, incentive, and esprit de corps through prompt recognition of outstanding performance of group effort. Unit awards recognize entire organizations for outstanding heroism or achievement performed during periods of war, international tension, national emergencies, or extraordinary situations that involve national interests. They are restricted to the recognition of acts or services that clearly and distinctly, by nature and magnitude, place the unit's performance significantly above that of other units performing similar missions. They are not intended to recognize individual actions, but to acknowledge the combined efforts of the organization. The performance should be that which could be recognized adequately in no other way.

During their forty-four year history, two wars and thirteen combat related campaigns, Marines of the Interpreter Teams (IT), Marine Interrogators of the Interrogator Translator Teams (ITT), and subsequent permutations of Interrogator Translator Platoons (ITP) and Interrogator Translator Units (ITU), earned the respect of the Marine Corps intelligence community as vital intelligence agents.

During this period, Marine Interrogator and Interpreter units earned a most impressive and extraordinary total of unit citations, awards, and commendations signifying exceptional first line combat support to operating field units, and for meritorious achievement.





Throughout their brief history, members of the ITTs displayed gallantry and determination while exploiting critical tactical information sources under extremely adverse and hazardous conditions, which set them apart from other units under similar circumstances.

During peacetime, active and Reserve interrogator units continued to excel in meritorious fashion to garner respect and singular recognition for their unified exemplary excellence. Marine Interrogator units have been repeatedly recognized in a manner most notable and extraordinary for units of their size.

It should be noted that during their tenure in the Intelligence Community of the United States Marine Corps from September 1958 to the retirement of the MOS in October 2002, the Marine Interrogator acquitted himself with honor, courage and commitment in the accomplishment of the unit's mission.

It is with a great deal of pride that the achievements of the Marine Corps Interrogator Translator Teams, the Interrogator Translator Platoons, the Interrogator Translator Units, and their working partners, the Interpreter Teams, are listed here to record and remember their lineage and honors, *Lest we forget...*

CITATIONS EARNED FROM SEPTEMBER 1958 TO OCTOBER 2002:

	Presidential Unit Citation (PUC):	6	(Interpreter Teams)
		14	(Interrogator Translator Teams)
	Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA)	2	(Interrogator Translator Units)
	Navy Unit Commendation (NUC):	16	(Interrogator Translator Teams)
	Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC):	2	(Interpreter Teams)
		26	(Interrogator Translator Teams)



PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

Authorization: Executive Order 9050, 6 February 1942.

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 would be required for award of a Navy Cross to an individual.



JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

Authorization: DoD Directive 1348.27, July 22, 1982,

Eligibility Requirements: Awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to joint activities for meritorious achievement or service, superior to that which is normally expected, for actions in the following situations: combat with an armed enemy of the United States; a declared national emergency; or under extraordinary circumstances that involve national interests.

Originally called the Department of Defense Meritorious Unit Award, this award ribbon is identical to the Department of Defense Superior Service Medal ribbon, indicative that the service performed would have been similar to warrant the award of this medal to an individual. However, the award does not warrant a medal and is worn within a gold colored 1/16-inch wide metal frame with laurel leaves.



NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

Authorization: ALNAV 224 of 18 December 1944.

Eligibility Requirements: Awarded by Secretary of the Navy to any unit of the Navy or Marine Corps distinguishing itself by outstanding heroism in action against the enemy, but not sufficient to justify the award of the Presidential Unit Citation; or to any such unit which has distinguished itself by extremely meritorious service not involving combat but in support of military operations, rendering the unit outstanding compared to other units performing similar service.

This award may also be conferred upon units of the other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States, and of armed forces of friendly foreign nations serving with the Armed Forces of the United States, provided that such units shall meet the standards established for Navy and Marine Corps units.

To justify this award, the unit must have performed service of a character comparable to that which would merit the award of a Silver Star Medal for heroism or a Legion of Merit for meritorious service to an individual. Normal performance of duty or participation in a large number of combat missions does not in itself justify the award. An award will not be made to a unit for actions of one or more of its component parts, unless the unit performed uniformly as a team in a manner justifying collective recognition.



MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

Authorization: SECNAV Notice 1650 of 17 July 1967.

Eligibility Requirements: Awarded by SECNAV, CNO or CMC to any unit of the Navy or Marine Corps distinguishing itself, under combat or non-combat conditions, by either valorous or meritorious achievement which renders the unit outstanding compared to other units performing similar service, but not sufficient to justify the award of the Navy Unit Commendation.

To justify this award, the unit must have performed service of a character comparable to that which would merit the award of a **Bronze Star Medal** to an individual, or achievement of like caliber in a non-combat situation.



COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

Authorization: SECNAV Notice 1650 of 17 Feb 1969 and SECNAVINST 1650.1G 2-29

Eligibility Requirements: Awarded to members of the Marine Corps, in the grade of colonel and junior thereto, who have actively participated in ground or surface combat. The principal eligibility criterion is that the individual must have participated in a bona fide ground or surface combat firefight or action during which he/she was under enemy fire and his/her performance while under fire was satisfactory.

Under Public Law 106-55, the CAR may be awarded retroactively to 07Dec41.

Operations: Only one award per operation is authorized. Subsequent awards will be indicated by the use of a Gold Star on the ribbon, and a Silver Star for five awards:

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|---|---------------------------------|---------|
| * (1) Southeast Asia | From 01Mar61 to 15Aug73 | (VNSM) |
| * (2) Dominican Republic | From 28Apr65 to 21Sep66 | (AFEM) |
| (3) USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) | 08Jun67 and 09Jun67 | |
| (4) USS PUEBLO (AGTR 2) | 23Jan68 | |
| (5) Operation FREQUENT WIND | (Evacuation Operations, Saigon) | |
| | 29Apr75 and 30Apr75 | (AFEM) |
| * (6) Operation MAYAGUEZ | 15May75 | (AFEM) |
| * (7) Operation URGENT FURY (Grenada) | 24Oct83 - 02Nov83 | (AFEM) |
| * (8) Lebanon | 20Aug82 to 01Aug84 | (AFEM) |
| * (9) Operation EARNEST WILL (Persian Gulf) | 19Nov87-20Apr88; | (MCEM) |
| | 20-23Apr88; & 2Aug90-10Sep91 | |
| * (10) Operation JUST CAUSE (Panama) | 20Dec89 - 31Jan90 | (AFEM) |
| * (11) Operation SHARP EDGE (Liberia) | 05Aug90 - 24Aug90 | (MCEM) |
| * (12) Operation DESERT STORM (SWAsia) | 17Jan91-28Feb91 | (SWASM) |
| * (13) El Salvador | 01Jan81 to 01Feb92 | (AFEM) |
| * (14) Operation RESTORE HOPE (Somalia) | 5Dec92 - 31Mar95 | (AFEM) |
| * (15) Cambodia | 01Jun92 to 15Nov93 | (AFEM) |
| * (16) Operation ASSURED RESPONSE (Liberia) | 07Apr96-18Apr96 | (AFEM) |
| (17) Kosovo Campaign | 24Mar99 to 27Jan00 | |

Although not a unit award, research is being conducted to determine in which campaigns Marine Interrogators participated to have earned a CAR. Pending verification, these campaigns are indicated by an asterisk (*):

COMBAT OPERATIONS

Marine Interrogators (0250/0251) have participated in 13 of the 17 campaigns listed above. If authorized a unit award of the Combat Action Ribbon, Marine Corps Interrogator Units would be authorized two Silver Stars and two Gold Stars on the CAR.



UNIT CITATIONS

LEGEND:

PUC	Presidential Unit Citation
JMUA	Joint Meritorious Unit Award
NUC	Navy Unit Commendation
MUC	Meritorious Unit Commendation

INTERROGATOR TRANSLATOR TEAMS

1st Force Reconnaissance Company Interrogator-Translator Team Detachment	NUC	14Aug90-16Apr91	SU I MEF
1st Interrogator-Translator Team	MUC	1Jul86-15May88	
2d Force Service Support Group (Beirut) Interrogator-Translator Team	NUC NUC	20Aug-10Sep82 14Feb-30May83	SU 32d MAU SU 22d MAU
2d Marine Division Interrogator-Translator Team Detachment	MUC	17Jun-19Aug80	SU LandFor 6th Flt 2-80
ITT Sub Team	MUC	10Oct-17Nov79	SU 38th MAU
3d Interrogation Team	MUC	1Jan-30Sep68	SU HQ Bn, 3d MarDiv
3d Interrogator-Translator Team	PUC PUC	1Apr66-15Sep67 16-30Sep67	SU 3d MarDiv
Detachment	PUC PUC NUC MUC MUC MUC	1Nov67-30Apr68 1Jun-31Oct68 1Feb-2Mar68 20Nov-9Dec68 7Dec68-8Mar69 3-12Apr69 1Jan70-13Apr71 14Apr-22May71	SU 1st MarDiv (Only 1 Award) SU 1st Mar SU 1st Mar SU TF YANKEE SU 3d Bn, 1st Mar SU 3d MAB
4th Marine Regiment Interrogator-Translator Team Detachment	NUC	18-23Aug65	SU 7th RLT

7th Interrogator-Translator Team

	PUC	17Apr66-15Sep67	SU 3d MarDiv
	MUC	1Jan-30Sep68	SU HQ Bn, 3d MarDiv
Detachment	NUC	15Mar-31May68	SU BLT 2/4
Sub Team	MUC	5Nov67-27Jan68	SU 1st AmTrac Bn

9th Interrogator-Translator Team

	PUC	16-30Sep67 1Nov67-31Oct68	SU 1st MarDiv (Less Det 4May-6Jul68) (Only 1 Award)
Detachment	PUC	26Apr-5Jun67	SU 5th Mar
	MUC	4May-6Jul68	SU 7th Mar
	PUC	20Nov-9Dec68	SU 1st Mar
Sub Team 1	MUC	21Apr-2May69	SU 1st Bn, 7th Mar
Sub Team 2	MUC	23-27Feb69	SU 3d Bn, 7th Mar
	MUC	29Mar-29May69	SU 3d Bn, 7th Mar

11th Interrogation Team

	MUC	1Jan-30Sep68	SU HQ Bn, 3d MarDiv
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13th Interrogator-Translator Team

	PUC	16-30Sep67 1Nov67-30Apr68 1Jun-31Oct68	SU 1st MarDiv (Only 1 Award)
	NUC	7Dec68-9Mar69	SU TF YANKEE
	MUC	14-22Apr71	SU 3d MAB
Detachment	PUC	2Feb-2Mar68	SU 1st Mar
	MUC	27Feb-20Mar68	SU 2d Bn, 3d Mar
	PUC	20Nov-9Dec68	SU 1st Mar

15th Interrogator-Translator Team

	MUC	1Jan-30Sep68	SU HQ Bn, 3d MarDiv
	MUC	30Mar-15Apr75	SU Cmdr, 7th Flt
	NUC	29Apr-13May75	SU Phib Evac Scpy Force
Detachment	*PUC	20Jan-31Mar68	SU 26th Mar (Khe Sanh)

17th Interrogator-Translator Team

The 17th ITT is not listed as a separate unit in NAVMC 2922 of 14Jun2007. Despite having a unit RUC, it is believed unit citation awards are included under Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. Investigation is ongoing.

	PUC	6May65-15Sep67	SU HQ Bn, 3d MarDiv
	*PUC	20Jan-31Mar68	SU 26th Mar (Khe Sanh)
	NUC	9Dec68-17Feb69	SU HQ Bn, 3d MarDiv

* It is believed the PUC attributed to the 15th ITT is in fact intended for the 17th, which supported the 26th MarRegt during the siege of Khe Sanh during the Tet Offensive of 1968. Investigation with HQMC is ongoing.

19th Interrogator-Translator Team

	PUC	1May-31Aug68	SU 1st MarDiv
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22d Marine Amphibious Unit

Interrogator-Translator Team Detachment	NUC	20Oct83-26Feb84	SU 22d MAU
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30th Interrogator-Translator Team

	MUC	1Aug90-30Jun91	SU 4th MarDiv (Includes I-I Staff)
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31st Interrogator-Translator Team

	MUC	1Aug90-30Jun91	SU 4th MarDiv
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32d Interrogator-Translator Team

	MUC	1Aug90-30Jun91	SU 4th MarDiv
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33d Interrogator-Translator Team

MUC 1Aug90-30Jun91 SU 4th MarDiv

34th Interrogator-Translator Team

MUC 1Aug90-30Jun91 SU 4th MarDiv

35th Interrogator-Translator Team

MUC 1Aug90-30Jun91 SU 4th MarDiv

INTERROGATOR TRANSLATOR PLATOON**1st Intelligence Company**

NUC	14Aug90-16Apr91	SU I MEF
JMUA	5Dec92-4May93	SU Unified TF Somalia
MUC	10Dec96-10Jul98	SU 1st SRIG

INTERROGATOR TRANSLATOR UNITS**1st Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group (Desert Storm)**

Interrogator-Translator Unit (Det) NUC 14Aug90-16Apr91 SU I MEF

2d Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group

Detachment	NUC	29May-21Aug90	SU MARG 2-90
	NUC	9Aug90-28Feb91	SU Ops DESERT SHIELD/STORM Phib TF
	NUC	5-6Jan91	SU 4th MEB, Det 1 (Op "EASTERN EXIT")

3d Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group

Detachment	MUC	28Apr90-31May91	SU MAGTF 4-90
Intelligence Company	NUC	15May-9Jul91	SU CMAGTF 2-91
		(Only those pers attached to CMAGT authorized award)	

5th Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group

JMUA	10May-13Jun91	SU JTF "SEA ANGEL"
NUC	14Aug90-16Apr91	SU I MEF

INTERPRETER TEAMS**1st Interpreter Team**

PUC	19Aug66-15Sep67	SU 1st MarDiv
PUC	16-30Sep67	SU 1st MarDiv
MUC	14Apr-13May71	SU 3d MAB

7th Interpreter Team

PUC	16-30Sep67	
	1Nov-31Dec67	SU 1st MarDiv
	1Jun-31Oct68	(Only 1 Award)
MUC	14-22Apr71	SU 3d MAB

9th Interpreter Team

PUC 21Jul-15Sep67 SU 3d MarDiv

11th Interpreter Team

PUC 21Aug-15Sep67 SU 3d MarDiv

15th Interpreter Team

PUC 1May-31Aug68 SU 1st MarDiv

FOREIGN UNIT AWARDS (VIETNAM)



Republic Of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation (With Palm & Frame)

Awarded by the Chief of the Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

The Secretary of the Navy has approved acceptance of the award for the III MAF to include all Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard units serving therewith during the period 8 March 1965—20 September 1969.

All Marine Corps units under the operational control of the III Marine Amphibious Force during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973 are entitled to this award and as such are considered cited units within themselves. All such units, which are authorized flags, are entitled to fly the streamer of the Gallantry Cross with palm.

All personnel of the above mentioned units during the period in question who were present and serving in Vietnam are authorized to wear the Gallantry Cross ribbon bar with palm and frame.

Commentary: This is a symbol of gratitude for valorous combat achievement by the people of the Republic of Vietnam to those Marines who fought and sacrificed themselves for the freedom of the Republic of Vietnam. The Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm & Frame is the equivalent of the **French Croix de Guerre**.



Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation (Civil Action Color with Palm & Frame)

The Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Medal is authorized as an individual foreign award to members of the 1st Marine Division and attached supporting interrogation units for the period 1 April 1968 to 20 November 1970.

The Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation with Palm and Frame is authorized for wear by all USMC personnel who served in-country Vietnam. The Republic of South Vietnam government awarded the Civil Action Unit Citation for meritorious civil action service during the period 1 January 1965 to 28 March 1973.

Individuals who received the RVN Civil Actions Medal as an individual award are authorized to wear the medal; and when assigned to a unit, which was awarded the unit citation, are authorized to wear the unit award ribbon as well.

Organizations that have been awarded the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation may display a streamer on their organizational flag. The streamer is the same pattern as the ribbon with the palm near the heading of the streamer. The inscription will be as indicated on the unit's lineage and honors.

Authorization Source:

ALMAR 291139Z/47 MAY 1970
SECNAVINST 1650.1G of 7 Jan 2002
NAVMC 2922 of 1Mar05
DoD INST 1348.33-M of Sep 1996

Authorities for granting unit citations to the Interrogator units are listed above. The Battle History cited for the interrogator units is subject to verification. Persons are invited and encouraged to submit their corrections, anecdotes, and eyewitness accounts of any and all of the history contained herein. MCITTA welcomes all substantive input and histories, documents, photos to verify this chronicle.

