

26 June 1967

MEMORANDUM

From: Commander River Assault Squadron NINE

To: All Hands

Subj: Commendation

1. The following message was received from CTF 117. It is quoted here for the information of All Hands. COMRIVRON NINE joins the other well-wishers in extending a hearty WELL DONE to those who participated in CORONADO/CONCORDIA as well as everyone in the Squadron. It is through the hard work and devotion to duty displayed by each member of RIVRON NINE that successful operations are possible. WELL DONE!

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FM CTF ONE ONE SEVEN

TO TF ONE ONE SEVEN

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

MRF OPERATIONS 19-21 JUN - CORONADO/CONCORDIA

OINC PERSONALLY READ FOLLOWING TO EACH AND EVERY MAN IN THE FORCE.

A. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM RADM VETH, COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM:

(1) THE PERFORMANCE AND GALLANTRY OF YOUR MEN DURING OPERATION CONCORDIA WERE A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND GRATIFICATION TO ALL OF US. YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE AGGRESSIVENESS, ALACRITY AND BOLDNESS CONSISTENTLY DISPLAYED BY YOU, YOUR OFFICERS AND MEN. MOBILE RIVERINE OPERATIONS HAVE PROVED TO BE THE POTENT FLEXIBLE FIGHTING TEAM SO VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CAMPAIGN IN THE DELTA. PLEASE PASS A WELL DONE TO ALL HANDS FOR THE SUCCESS OF CONCORDIA AND MAY YOU HAVE CONTINUED GOOD HUNTING. RADM VETH SENDS.

B. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM GENERAL WEYAND, COMMANDING GENERAL II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM:

(1) PLEASE PASS TO COMMODORE WADE WELLS AND COLONEL BILL FULTON MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ON THE MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE OF THEIR GALLANT MEN IN YESTERDAY'S ACTION IN LONG AN PROVINCE. THEIR CRUSHING DEFEAT OF THE 5TH VC BATTALION AND ATTACHED LOCAL VC COMPANIES WILL DO MORE TO RE-ESTABLISH SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLE IN THIS VITAL AREA THAN ANY SINGLE OPERATION PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED BY OUR FORCES. THE FACT THAT THIS OPERATION BY YOUR MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE WAS CONDUCTED UNDER THE MOST ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ADDS TO OUR PRIDE IN THE ACTIONS OF THE NAVAL AND ARMY UNITS INVOLVED. WELL DONE.

C. PERSONAL MESSAGE TO ALL HANDS OF TF 117 FROM COMMANDER TASK FORCE 117:

(1) THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BOAT CREWS IN THIS ACTION WAS BY FAR AND AWAY THE VERY BEST. THE DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL COMPETANCE IN OPERATIONS OF YOUR BOATS IN EXTREME VIOLENT COMBAT OPERATIONS IS A SOURCE OF TREMENDOUS SATISFACTION TO ME. THE FACT THAT AGAIN YOU STOOD TOE TO TOE WITH THE VC AND SLUGGED IT OUT WITH THEM AND REALLY BEAT THEM INTO THE GROUND IS THE HIGHEST POINT OF OUR TIME IN VIETNAM. OF EQUAL

SIGNIFICANCE TO ALL OF US WAS THE WAY IN WHICH YOU SUPPORTED OUR ARMY BROTHERS IN VERY CLOSE QUARTERS. THEIR GRATITUDE WHICH I AM SURE HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO YOU BY THEM MUST BE OF GREAT SATISFACTION TO ALL OF YOU. WE HAVE AN UNBEATABLE TEAM IN THIS MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE, AND I KNOW THAT WE WILL CONTINUE.

(2) THE SUPPORT TEAM OF OUR MRB SHIPS PERFORMED MAGNIFICENTLY GREATLY EXCEEDING MY EXPECTATIONS. THE HANDLING OF CASUALTIES FROM THE BATTLE FIELD WAS TRULY INSPIRING. THE SUPPLY AND REPAIR SUPPORT ACTUALLY MADE THE OPERATION GO AND KEEP ON GOING.

(3) FOR ME TO OBSERVE ON THE FLAGSHIP THE ORDERLY AND RAPID AND IMAGINATIVE CLOSE SUPPORT AT ALL LEVELS AS THE BATTLE PROGRESSED WAS INDEED A PLEASURE. THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ME TO ISSUE ANY ORDERS - EVERYTHING WENT JUST FINE.

(4) GENERAL WESTMORELAND VISITED US AT END OF OPERATIONS. HE PERSONALLY REQUESTED THAT I PASS ON TO YOU HIS ADMIRATION FOR YOUR ACTIONS AND THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MRB GREATLY EXCEEDED HIS EXPECTATIONS, AND THAT HE IS COUNTING ON US TO CONTINUE SIMILAR STRIKE OPERATIONS AS HIS MOST POTENT WEAPON IN THE DELTA."