Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation

Period of service: 19 March 2003 to 2 March 2004

Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15

Reason: For exceptionally meritorious service. During the period 19 March 2003 to 2 March 2004, the 317th Maintenance Company displayed exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit established a world-class maintenance and Class IX operation at Forward Logistical Base Dogwood, where it provided support to the 24th Corps Support Group, 3d Infantry Division, and other Corps separates as they assaulted Baghdad. The unit also pushed elements to Baghdad International Airport to perform critical maintenance and recovery missions around the Baghdad area, before relocating to Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq, where the company immediately began providing the highest quality maintenance support to local units. The unit also successfully completed 15 escort missions from Balad to Tikrit and back in order to transport essential supplies. The 317th Maintenance Company's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects distinct credit upon the unit, 3d Corps Support Command, and the United States Army.

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Additional Instructions: This order serves as official notification that a unit award has been approved for the organization(s) listed above and will serve as authority for eligible Soldiers to update their records and wear the award. The award is still subject to final confirmation in Department of the Army General Orders. Official verification of a specific unit's entitlement to display the award in the form of an appropriate streamer on its flag or guidon rests with the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH), which is also responsible for determining official unit Lineage and Honors for MTOE organizations. CMH will use this permanent order to authorize the manufacture of an appropriate decoration streamer for any organization clearly entitled to display the award, and the

completed streamers will be distributed by the Human Resources Command.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

STEWART L. STEPHENSON, JR.
LTC, AG
Chief, Military Awards Branch