Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation
Period of service: 15 October 2008 to 15 July 2009
Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15
Reason: For exceptionally meritorious service. During the period 15 October 2008 to 15 July 2009, Headquarters, 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team displayed exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade headquarters accomplished its assigned mission with pride and distinction, showing tireless dedication, professionalism, and motivation. The unit's highly successful operations set the example for other units in Multi National Forces-West. Headquarters, 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects distinct credit upon the unit, the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team, and the United States Army.

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. The streamers will then be manufactured and sent to the U.S. Army.
PERMANENT ORDERS 343-06, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332, 9 December 2009

Human Resources Command for automatic distribution to the units concerned.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

[Signature]

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