Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Valorous Unit Award
Period of service: 20 March 2003 to 30 June 2003
Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-14
Reason: For extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy. During the period 20 March 2003 to 30 June 2003, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 160th Aviation and its subordinate units displayed extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in support of Special Operations Forces to initiate Operation Iraq Freedom. The unit displayed extraordinary gallantry and unwavering fidelity while executing numerous and diverse missions, both acknowledged and classified, throughout Iraq. Despite operating far behind enemy lines in a dangerous and inhospitable environment, the unit performed with the utmost professionalism, valor and dedication. In doing so, the battalion helped achieve significant national objectives and contributed immeasurably to the success of Coalition Forces in Iraq. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 160th Aviation's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects distinct credit upon the unit 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 HRC.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

STEWART L. STEPHENSON, JR.
LTC, AG
Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch