Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation
Period of service: 9 October 2010 to 1 October 2011
Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15
Reason: For exceptionally meritorious service. During the period 9 October 2010 to 1 October 2011, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 63d Ordnance Battalion and its subordinate units were distinguished by demonstrating exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit's efforts as the headquarters element of Combined Joint Task Force Paladin-South shaped a unique level of coordination, cooperation and action between Regional Command-South/Combined Joint Task Force 10, 205th Corps Afghanistan National Army, Afghan National Police and Afghan Border Patrol. Combined Joint Task Force Paladin-South was comprised of 14 Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal Companies with 94 Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams providing direct support to a total of eight Brigade Combat Teams and Combined Coalition Task Forces. This set the conditions for successful Counter-Improvised Explosive Device operations throughout Regional Command-South. As an indispensable element of Regional Command-South, units were able to greatly reduce risk, enhance freedom of movement and facilitate the overarching goals of International Security Assistance Forces and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Command Joint Task Force Paladin-South expanded and exploited every facet of intelligence and operations to better defeat improvised explosive devices through conventional and unconventional methods. The unit's ability to execute the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device mission undeniably saved thousands of Coalition Forces and Civilian lives throughout the theater. The accomplishments of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 63d Ordnance Battalion and its subordinate units reflect great credit upon the unit, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, United States Forces-Afghanistan 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 Human Resources Command for automatic distribution to the units concerned.
PERMANENT ORDERS 348-19, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122, 14 December 2011

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

ELISA M. ROBINSON
CW4, AG
Deputy Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch