Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation
Period of service: 21 January 2011 to 22 December 2011
Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15
Reason: For exceptionally meritorious service. During the period 21 January 2011 to 22 December 2011, the 326th Engineer Battalion and the cited units displayed exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation New Dawn. Providing command control out of Joint-Base Balad, Iraq the Task Force served as the sole engineer battalion in the Iraq Joint Operational Area which consisted of United States Divisions North, Center and South. Comprised of five route clearance companies, one engineer support company, two multi-role bridge companies and a forward support company, the Task Force controlled elements at various locations. Providing unparalleled route clearance experience, heavy construction assets, bridging operations, and logistical support across the Iraqi Joint Operational Area, the Task Force proved a vital resource throughout the deployment. As the final engineer battalion in theater, the 326th Engineer Battalion and the cited units supported the United States Forces-Iraq strategic mission by maintaining freedom of maneuver for United States Forces and Iraqi Security Forces along main and alternate supply routes during retrograde operations. The units promoted a self-reliant Iraqi military and engineer force through combined route clearance and joint bridging operations supporting the Government of Iraq’s delivery of essential services and support. Significant Task Force operational contributions included conducting route clearance patrols, clearing operations, bridge recons, inspections and repairs, bridge removals, horizontal construction, life support, and force protection construction missions, key leader engagements and partnership missions with joint Iraqi Security and military forces. The exemplary performance of the 326th Engineer Battalion and the cited units is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon the units, the 20th Engineer Brigade, United States Forces-Iraq and the United States Army.
Format: 320
PERMANENT ORDERS 105-32, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, 1600 Spearhead Division Ave., Fort Knox, KY 40122, 15 April 2013

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. It is not the responsibility of HRC to replace streamers that are lost or damaged. Please refer to AR 840-10 for further guidance regarding the responsibilities of the unit concerning the display, care and disposition of the streamers.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

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