Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 79th Ordnance Battalion
466 OL-A United States Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight (3 August 2011 to 27 January 2012)
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Six, Company Three (Navy) (28 July 2011 to 24 January 2012)

Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation
Period of service: 12 April 2011 to 11 April 2012
Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15
Reason: For exceptionally meritorious service. During the period 12 April 2011 to 11 April 2012, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 79th Ordnance Battalion and the cited units displayed extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit embodied effort, professionalism and fearlessness playing an important role in every major combat operation conducted in Regional Command-East and Regional Command-North. By positioning themselves between the dangerous improvised explosive devices designed to target and eradicate them and their Coalition teams, the joint teams of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 79th Ordnance Battalion and the cited units displayed the greatest example of selfless service and loyalty. The units' ability to innovate and accomplish combat explosive ordnance disposal operations in support of the 1st Cavalry Division set the standard by which all other elements will be judged. Their bravery and sacrifice saved countless Coalition and Afghan lives and provided critical protection to the infrastructure of Afghanistan. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 79th Ordnance Battalion and the cited units' support to the war resulted in the elimination of 1,088 improvised explosive devices from the battlefield and the destruction of over 150,000 pounds of hazardous explosives and materials to make the devices. The units' actions critically hindered the ability of insurgents to disrupt and eradicate Coalition Forces. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 79th Ordnance Battalion and the cited units' outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon the units 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. 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

DISTRIBUTION:
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