



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND
1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVENUE
FORT KNOX, KY 40122-5408

PERMANENT ORDERS 187-12

6 July 2011

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 653d Support Group

Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation

Period of service: 4 December 2009 to 31 August 2010

Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15

Reason: For exceptionally meritorious service. During the period 4 December 2009 to 31 August 2010, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 653d Support Group displayed exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom while stationed in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The unit processed over 15,000 Operation Enduring Freedom deploying and redeploying forces when the Manas Kyrgyzstan Aerial Point of Embarkation closed. Almost simultaneously the volcanic eruptions in Iceland crippled the world air transportation system. Despite these two events, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 653d Support Group continued to provide a seamless flow of forces in and out of the theater of operations. By May 2010, the presidential directive to move 40,000 U.S. Forces into Afghanistan was occurring. The number of U.S. Troops in Iraq was drawing down from approximately 150,000 to just fewer than 50,000, with the drawdown to be completed by 31 August 2010. The unit ensured that 23 redeploying Brigade Combat Teams, 17 deploying Brigade Combat Teams, 440 redeploying Corps Separates and 408 deploying Corps Separates consisting of over 100,000 troops and 47,000 pieces of equipment efficiently completed the process and proceeded expeditiously to their destinations. To support this deliberate phased responsible drawdown, a mini-Gateway was established within 30 days to decrease the dwell time and maximize aircraft capacity during this drawdown of forces. By this exemplary performance of duty, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 653d Support Group is in keeping with the highest standards of military service and reflects great credit upon the itself, the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), United States Army Central Command, the United States Army and the Department of Defense.

Format: 320

Additional Instructions: This order serves as official notification that a unit award has been approved for the

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Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122, 6 July 2011

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.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

For Roger D. Blackman, CW2

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